

Deadline Reached on Liberating French Pilots

Paris Had Promised Tough 'Consequences' If Serbs Failed to Act

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

PARIS — A deadline set by the French government for information from the Serbs on two pilots shot down over Bosnia in August was slipping by Sunday with no immediate indication of the stern action France had threatened if the airmen were not released or their fate clarified.

Hervé de Charette, the French foreign minister, said on Friday that the pilots, whose Mirage 2000 was shot down on Aug. 30, must be released by Sunday or the Serbs would face "multiple consequences."

President Jacques Chirac earlier called the Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, to deliver what officials described as "an ultimatum."

An outcry has been slowly mounting in France over the pilots, Captain Frédéric Chiffot and Lieutenant José Souvignat. For several weeks, after at least two aborted rescue attempts by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the French government was extremely restrained in its public statements, calling for the pilots' return but never threatening any retaliation against Serbia or the Bosnian Serbs.

In the last week, however, there has been a sharp change in policy.

Complaints from the wives of the pilots that the only information they have received has come from newspaper reports and a petition calling for an immediate release of the pilots have focused the government's attention on the issue. Mr. Chirac said Saturday that he would meet the wives this week.

The Bosnian peace agreement initiated in Dayton, Ohio, last month is to be formally signed in Paris on Thursday by the presidents of Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia. Government officials have said that there is no plan to postpone the signing if the pilots are not released, but the issue is clearly a delicate one for the French president.

Despite the increasingly threatening language from French officials, there has been no concrete indication of what France

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American Marines preparing to move out Sunday as part of NATO's force after their arrival at Sarajevo's airport.

Uneasy Silence Settles Over Nigeria

By Stephen Buckley
Washington Post Service

BERA, Nigeria — One month ago, Ken Saro-Wiwa, wearing a white native robe and slippers, calmly shuffled into the windowless gallows site at Rivers State Prison. A black hood covered his head. Handcuffs and leg chains shackled him.

One hangerman slipped a noose around his neck and a second pulled a lever, a witness said, sending the political activist plunging into a 14-foot pit. Silent prison officials and government authorities watched as he thrashed for 20 minutes, unusually long for a hanging.

At 12:02 P.M., he was dead.

The executions of Mr. Saro-Wiwa, 54, and eight other members of Nigeria's Ogoni tribe hanged that morning brought a fresh wave of international anger upon black Africa's most populous country, which faces new threats of severe economic sanctions designed to force its military regime from power.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa, a prominent poet and playwright, led a five-year battle for the secession of the area known as Ogoniland and for compensation from the Royal Dutch Shell Corp. for environmental damage in the region of 500,000 people.

The hangings followed a nine-month trial in which 15 Ogonis were accused of involvement in the slayings of four Ogoni

leaders in May 1994. The men, three of them traditional chiefs, were hacked to death and their bodies burned.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa was found guilty of murder for having ordered the killings, a charge he denied but that some trial witnesses testified was true; he was not accused of having slain the men himself.

Many human-rights groups assailed the proceedings, accusing the government of denying the defendants due process.

The groups contend that the military regime, which depends on oil for 80 percent of its revenue, wanted Mr. Saro-Wiwa and the others silenced, so they could not

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Juppé Agrees to Talk To Strikers but Holds Firm on Health Plan

Unions Vow to Continue Walkout, Saying Assurances Aren't Enough

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — In a significant gesture of conciliation, Prime Minister Alain Juppé said Sunday that he would meet Monday with French strikers in an attempt to resolve the country's worst labor crisis in more than a decade, but he reaffirmed his determination to pursue welfare reforms.

In another major concession, he said some workers of the state railroad company SNCF and the Paris Métro would continue to be able to retire at age 50.

But the two main unions leading the rail and transport walkout — the Communist-backed General Labor Confederation and the rival Workers Force — although welcoming the prime minister's concessions, said that strikes would go on for the moment and that mass demonstrations set for Tuesday would go ahead.

The CGT union leader, Louis Viannet, said Mr. Juppé had "at last taken account of the determined struggle of the rail and Paris urban transport workers" but regretted that he had made no concession on the social security reforms.

Mr. Juppé spoke during his second televised appearance in a week, as the country went into an 18th day of public service strikes, including a total railroad shutdown.

"I have listened. I have understood and I am very attentive," Mr. Juppé said, adding that it was vital to emerge from the crisis because of its damaging effect on French business and the economy.

"We are in a grave crisis," he said. "We must get out of it."

He said that what a meeting between the government and strikers was called was a matter of semantics but that he was not afraid of using the term "negotiate." Labor leaders had assailed the government's refusal to accept the term in discussing their demands for a withdrawal of proposed higher taxes and changes in the social security system.

Asked if he would attend a "social summit" meeting with union leaders, Mr. Juppé said, "I do not exclude any solution."

Talks Saturday between the striking rail workers and a government-appointed mediator, Jean Matricoli, appeared to have made little progress.

The strikes have been spearheaded by the rail workers, who are concerned that they will lose their special retirement pension system under the proposed reforms.

Mr. Matricoli said Saturday that Mr. Juppé had extended his negotiating mandate to cover the pension plan, but the workers nonetheless called for the strike to continue. They demanded that a five-year restructuring plan aimed at cutting SNCF's 175 billion-franc (\$35 billion) deficit be negotiated from scratch and put on hold for several months. Some of the workers said they would not meet with Mr. Matricoli on Monday unless he gave "genuine answers" to their pension and other demands.

During the televised interview Sunday, Mr. Juppé said he had never proposed ending the special benefits, including the right for some to retire at age 50. Nor, he said, had he ever proposed aligning rail workers' pensions with those of the general population. He did say, however, that it was necessary to start a dialogue on the problem to avoid bankruptcy within a decade.

Mr. Juppé made it clear he had no intention of making essential changes in his proposed welfare reform, saying that experts of all political persuasions had called it "global and coherent."

"It is urgent," he said. "If we do not act soon, we risk a cessation of health insurance." Mr. Juppé said he would use a guillotine procedure under the constitution to get the social security changes through Parliament, bypassing an attempt by opposition Socialists to delay the legislation by introducing thousands of amendments.

He said his plan would not mean an end to reimbursements for health costs or any reduction in the quality of health care.

He also said he was giving Parliament much broader powers to control the health system, under which reimbursement has been administered largely by one of the union confederations.

The government had fixed the goals for reform, he said. Now it was up to the experts and the social partners, meaning the unions and others, to work out the means for putting those goals into effect.

The changes were vital to save the social security system, said Mr. Juppé. "If it were in good health," he said, "we would not be doing anything."

The Market Tip of the Week: Stay Out of It

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Stay away. That is what analysts are advising clients in a week charged with events that could dramatically move prices in the foreign exchange and international capital markets.

"It's better to stay out of the markets than try to second-guess how events will unfold," said Mark Cliffe at HSBC Markets in London. But he warned that "the risks are tilted against the dollar as odds are increasing" that Washington will fail to meet its Friday deadline for an agreement on cutting the budget deficit.

The calendar of events starts Thursday, when Bundesbank policymakers hold their final meeting of the year. This is the meeting where monetary growth targets for 1996 will be announced, so it is doubtful that the central bank will use the event to lower interest rates.

But Andreas Drobny at CS First Boston in London said the German central bank

could signal its intent to lower rates by announcing a 1996 band for monetary growth that is wider than the 4 percent to 6 percent range for 1995.

A decline in German rates, which would probably cause the Deutsche mark to weaken, is considered to be a foregone conclusion, because all the incoming data point to a substantial slowdown in growth. But if the central bank decides to hold rates steady, awaiting more clear data that its previous easing in August has been fully absorbed, the mark, which has already softened in anticipation of the cut, could rebound.

That could happen anyway on Friday if the White House and Congressional Republicans fail to resolve their differences over reducing the budget deficit and are unable to renew the temporary agreement that has enabled the government to function normally. A breakdown would revive fears that the government would be forced into technical default through an inability to service its debt.

On the other hand, an agreement on the budget, which many analysts see as the only factor preventing the Federal Reserve Board from lowering interest rates at its next meeting Dec. 19, could dramatically lift the dollar and the American and European bond market markets, which currently move in tandem.

But analysts are divided on how this news would play out. Some see a U.S. rate cut as the start of a rally in the bond market that would drive up prices and push down the yield on 30-year government debt to perhaps as low as 5.75 percent. The yield is currently tottering around 6 percent. On this scenario, foreign money would be pulled into U.S. bonds, helping the dollar to recover further.

The contrarian view is that the U.S. bond market rally to date has been based on the presumption that the Fed will cut rates, and confirmation will be taken as a signal to take profits and sell bonds. In a scenario

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In Montana, the Fast Lane Gets Faster

New York Times Service

HELENA, Montana — On the first day in more than 20 years that Montana has not had a daytime numerical speed limit, Patrolman Mitch Tuttle made his first traffic stop — a car going 92 miles an hour on Interstate 15.

The Montana Highway Patrol officer raced his blue-green cruiser up to 110 miles an hour and pulled the car over. When the driver lowered his window, Patrolman Tuttle politely told him that he was near the speed that could earn him a ticket — one that just might be unreasonable.

The driver said thanks, the officer smiled, handed back his driver's license.

and said, "O.K., have a nice day."

When Congress passed highway legislation earlier this year that allowed states to set their own speed limits, Montana's old speed law went back into effect. Before 1973, the only Montana limit on drivers' speed was "reasonable and proper."

What is reasonable and proper is now up to the discretion of each patrolman, a judgment based on the condition of the vehicle, traffic, weather and road conditions. It is also based on what speed that judges, prosecutors and juries will deem as too fast.

"On a nice clear Sunday," said Patrolman Tuttle, a nine-year veteran of the highway patrol, "at 10 A.M., a newer car, with an experienced driver, I would look at it at 95 and above." The talk among other officers, he said, is that anyone driving 85 or over could get pulled over.

Patrolman Tuttle passed members of a highway crew taking down the 65-mile-an-hour signs. Their breath hanging in the frosty air, they positioned a new sign that read, "Night Speed Limit 65."

State officials have repeatedly stressed that driving in Montana is not a pedal-to-the-metal situation. Trucks have a speed limit of 65 during the day and 55 at night. On secondary roads, cars are limited to 55 miles an hour at night.

Before Friday, speeders got a \$5 ticket and no points on their license for going over 65. The new tickets have teeth. They start at

\$70 and put two points on a license.

Highway patrol officers are worried that the new limit will send the death rate skyrocketing. Last year there were 208 traffic deaths in Montana, and officials said that could increase by at least 50 percent if the pre-1973 fatality figures are an indication.

Patrolman Tuttle said: "We're going to have some phenomenal wrecks. We're used to seeing cars that roll over, two and three times. We're going to see cars that roll eight, nine and 10 times."

Policemen say they expect the biggest increase in accidents to take place on two-lane highways. They predict that between people backing out of driveways and wildlife and livestock on the highway, there will be more accidents.

"You hit a deer going 60, it will roll over the car," Patrolman Tuttle said. "If you're going 100, it's going to chop the deer's legs off and the deer's going to come through the window and he's going to kiss you."

"I've always watched out for the other guy," said Mary Gillig, a waitress at Uncle Ron's High Country Cafe, a truck stop on the edge of Helena. "I guess I'll have to watch out a little more."

But many welcome the change. "Everybody is glad," said Ron Jones, who is the Uncle Ron of the High Country Cafe hereabouts. "Nobody drove the speed limit anyway."

AGENDA



STEP TOWARD SELF-RULE—Palestinians entering Israeli military headquarters in Tulkarm, West Bank after the army withdrew Sunday.

U.S. Vows to Arm Bosnian Military

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States has concluded that achieving military balance in Bosnia will require arming and training Muslim forces, Vice President Al Gore said Sunday.

In a step toward placating Republican critics of the planned deployment of 20,000 U.S. troops in Bosnia, Mr. Gore said on an NBC News program that NATO's plans to seek parity by collecting arms would not do the job alone.

"There'll have to be some equipping and arming of the Bosnian Federation, and we're going to absolutely ensure that that does take place," he said.

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Ignoring U.S., Southeast Asia To Sign Ban on Nuclear Arms

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — Leaders of 10 Southeast Asian countries will sign a treaty this week banning nuclear weapons from the region, despite objections from the United States and China, officials said Sunday.

They said, however, that foreign ministers of ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, who will meet in Bangkok Monday to prepare for a group summit Thursday and Friday, would discuss whether or not to modify the draft to take account of Chinese and American concerns.

Some officials said the stand taken by China and the United States raised doubts about the sincerity of their commitment to eventual nuclear disarmament.

Late Friday, the United States joined China in publicly expressing concerns about the proposed pact. Both nuclear powers said that they could not support it unless significant changes were made.

Southeast Asian officials were surprised by the U.S. decision because Washington had earlier indicated it was ready to support a nuclear weapon-free zone in Southeast Asia, and had announced in September that it would sign a protocol endorsing a similar treaty covering the South Pacific.

The officials said it appeared that the U.S. military concerns were a more important factor in Southeast Asia than in the South Pacific and that they outweighed diplomatic interests in conciliating regional opposition to nuclear weapons.

One of the main U.S. concerns is that the regular movement of its nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed naval vessels and aircraft through Southeast Asia could be restricted by the new treaty.

"Nuclear-powered ships and American military vessels, naval vessels, do transit through those waters," Nicholas Burns, the State Department spokesman, said Friday.

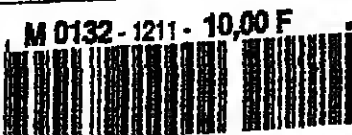
He was referring to the South China Sea and international straits in Southeast Asia that provide vital access for the U.S. Navy from the Pacific to the Indian oceans and the troubled Gulf region, a major source of U.S. oil imports.

Mr. Burns said the United States was

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Newstand Prices

Andorra.....10.00 FF	Luxembourg.....65 L. Fr
Antilles.....12.50 FF	Mexico.....14 Ch
Aruba.....1.000 CFA	Qatar.....1,000 Rials
Bahamas.....10.00 FF	Réunion.....12.50 FF
Belize.....1.000 CFA	Saudi Arabia.....10.00 R.
Bhutan.....1.000 CFA	Senegal.....1.100 CFA
Bolivia.....1.000 CFA	Spain.....225 PTAS
Brazil.....2,800 Lr	Turkey.....1.250 Dr
Bulgaria.....1.250 JD	U.A.E.....10.00 Dirh
Canada.....1.250 JD	U.S. Mail (Eur.).....\$1.20
Chad.....1.250 JD	



The Old Style Prevails/ Democracy Is in a Free Fall

The UN's Success in Cambodia? Look Again

By Keith B. Richburg
Washington Post Service

PHNOM PENH — A newspaper editor is gunned down in broad daylight. A grenade is tossed into a Buddhist temple, wounding 50 supporters of the political opposition. Troops and tanks appear in the streets as a show of force against a prominent critic of the government. And the former Communist co-prime minister orders his newly formed private army to destroy his enemies, whom he likens to "worms."

Cambodia has been widely touted as a success story — a model of global peace-making in the post-Cold War world. The United Nations spent close to \$3 billion trying to break the cycle of tragedy. But today, two and a half years after UN-sponsored elections were supposed to have ushered in a new era of democracy and economic recovery, Cambodia appears to be sliding back to its familiar pattern of political violence, assassination and repression.

During the presence of the UN mission here, the country experienced a brief flowering of open democracy: political parties formed, dozens of newspapers appeared on the streets and new groups organized to monitor human rights.

"The expectation was that Cambodia under the aegis of the United Nations had been cured and was on the road to liberal democracy," one foreign resident said. "But when you step back and look at it, the idea that little Cambodia with all its tragic problems would suddenly become the most democratic country in Asia was totally unrealistic."

The current rulers — led by the former Communists installed during the decade-long Vietnamese occupation — are trying to establish a new dictatorship, according to many Cambodians, human-rights groups and some Western diplomats.

Although the country is largely peaceful, with the Khmer Rouge guerrillas reduced to making small-scale attacks, the government appears bent on silencing all opposition and talks of staying in power until 2010. Critics accuse the international community of unseemly silence, protecting the myth of the Cambodian "success story."

"Cambodian democracy is in a free fall now," said Lao Mong Hay, director of the Khmer Institute for Democracy. "The countries that signed the international agreements are our safety net. Whether democracy will fall through that safety net to the floor and be killed remains to be seen."

"There is a slide back toward a more and more authoritarian regime, and the old style

prevails again," said Sam Rainsy, a former finance minister who was forced out of the government and has launched a party called Khmer Nation.

"The UN has had failure in many places, but only in Cambodia can they claim a success," Mr. Rainsy said. "And they don't want the success to be tarnished by what has happened afterward."

Cambodia was not supposed to turn out this way. The 1991 peace agreement committed all factions to establish a pluralistic, multiparty democracy that would guarantee human rights.

Elections duly took place in 1993, and Cambodia became a constitutional monarchy, with Norodom Sihanouk returning to the throne he lost in 1970. The political party that King Sihanouk created, the royalist Funcinpec led by his son, Norodom Ranariddh, came out

ahead of the former Communists in the voting. As far as the world could tell then, Cambodia was indeed a success.

That is when the problems began. Prince Ranariddh agreed to form a coalition government with the former Communists, restyled as the Cambodian People's Party, who finished a close second in the balloting. The two parties agreed to share everything — splitting ministries, with "co-ministers." Prince Ranariddh and Hun Sen, the People's Party leader installed by Vietnam, even agreed to each take the title of "co-prime minister."

The former Communists never really relinquished administrative control, not in the ministries, where 80 percent of civil servants are still People's Party loyalists, nor at the district and village level, where the old Communist apparatus remains intact. The Cam-

bodian People's Party's control is perhaps most pronounced in the police and security units, which have been blamed for most of the attacks on opposition politicians and their supporters and on journalists.

When King Sihanouk's popular half-brother, Prince Norodom Sirivudh, was accused last month of plotting to assassinate Mr. Hun Sen, the former Communist leader demonstrated his command of the country's armed units by bringing two tanks and troops into the streets of Phnom Penh.

Prince Sirivudh, the Funcinpec secretary-general, is under arrest because of the alleged plot. He claimed he was a victim of political persecution, and the Human Rights Watch organization said the evidence against him was not sufficient to prosecute. But Mr. Hun Sen unveiled a new personal bodyguard unit, consisting of 191 well-armed troops backed by six tanks and an unspecified number of armored personnel carriers. On state television, Mr. Hun Sen ordered this new private army to "take preemptive measures."

"If the defense task involved only providing protection around the house, it would mean you had lost the initiative," Mr. Hun Sen told the assembled troops. "Therefore, you have to strike at those forces from a distance with whatever means."

He called his enemies "worms." In the past, Mr. Hun Sen's admonitions to his supporters to attack enemies resulted in violence.

In September, for example, Mr. Hun Sen warned an opposition politician, Son Sam, not to proceed with a planned party congress because the gathering might be attacked with grenades. On Sept. 30, unidentified motorcyclists tossed grenades at Mr. Son Sam's house, and at a nearby Buddhist temple, where Mr. Son Sam's supporters had gathered to spend the night.

On Oct. 22, the pro-opposition newspaper New Liberty News printed an article critical of one of Mr. Hun Sen's personal rural development projects. The next day, a mob arrived at the newspaper offices, broke down the door, destroyed the paper's offices and badly beat a staff member. Mr. Hun Sen was quoted a few days later as calling the attack "justified" and "fair."

COMING UP

The island republic of Nauru has been so environmentally ravaged that its inhabitants may have to abandon it totally.



These Buddhist monks are praying for peace. Cambodia can use all the help it gets.

U.S. Fears Attacks In Saudi Arabia
Americans Are Cautioned

WASHINGTON — The State Department urged Americans in Saudi Arabia over the weekend to be extremely cautious, citing a message from the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh that said it had unconfirmed information that "more bombings may be aimed at Westerners."

After an explosion last month at a U.S. military center in Saudi Arabia, the embassy said it had "unconfirmed information that additional bombings may be planned against Western interests in Saudi Arabia, including facilities and commercial centers occupied and/or frequented by Americans."

The statement said such attacks "could occur anywhere in the kingdom" and urged Americans in the country "be vigilant of their personal security and surroundings at all times and under all circumstances, and should report any suspicious activities to the embassy or nearest U.S. consulate."

A U.S. Embassy spokesman in Riyadh said the warning was issued after new information about the safety of Americans in the kingdom was passed to the embassy.

"It's the policy of the embassy to take all threats seriously," the spokesman said.

After the Americans, the next largest group of Westerners in the kingdom is the British, with nearly 29,000 nationals in the kingdom.

A spokesman for the British Embassy in Riyadh said it had issued a similar bulletin reminding its nationals of a warning six days after the bombing to maintain vigilance.

The Nov. 13 bomb, which had 150 to 225 pounds (70 to 100 kilograms) of high explosive, according to the U.S. Defense Department, struck a Saudi National Guard training center in Riyadh run by the

United States. The National Guard numbers 57,000 troops in charge of defending strategic installations, including oil production and export facilities. They are under the command of Crown Prince Abdullah, heir apparent to King Fahd.

Saudi authorities issued a composite of a man aged between 30 and 40 who they said was suspected of having had a role in the explosion. No arrests have been announced.

It was the deadliest action against Americans in the Middle East since Shiite Muslim bombers killed 241 servicemen in Beirut in October 1983. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer and exporter, is a major supplier to the United States. It is Washington's closest and most powerful ally in the Gulf region.

Three groups took responsibility for the bombing: the Combatant Partisans of God, Tigers of the Gulf, and the Islamic Movement for Change.

Germans Launch Probe of Iranian

KARLSRUHE, Germany — German federal prosecutors have launched an investigation of the head of Iranian intelligence, a spokesman said here Sunday, the first time a Western country has directly challenged such a senior Iranian official over terrorism.

Rolf Harnisch, a prosecution spokesman, said the investigation concerned the alleged role of the Iranian security minister, Ali Fallahian, in the September 1992 deaths of four Iranian Kurdish opposition militants.

Mr. Fallahian is suspected of having ordered the killings at a Berlin restaurant. One of those killed was an Iranian Kurdish opposition leader, Sadeq Sharafkandi.

TRAVEL UPDATE

French Transport Remains Blocked

PARIS (AFP) — Public transportation in France remained at a standstill on Sunday as strikes over controversial changes in the social security system continued to cripple the country.

No trains were running in France, and in Paris there were no Metro or suburban rail services and only 3 percent of buses. Eurostar services from Paris to London and Brussels have not operated since Friday, while special bus and boat links that the government put on in Paris were not operating over the weekend.

Flu Epidemic Sweeps Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — More than 338,000 people, including about 200,000 children, have caught the flu in Moscow in the last two weeks, a senior municipal medical official said.

From Nov. 27 to Dec. 3, more than 126,000 people had reported flu symptoms, Nikolai Fi-

latov, head of Moscow's Sanitary and Epidemic Control Center, told the Interfax news agency. He said, however, that the epidemic appeared to be on the decline.

Health officials say the outbreak is the city's worst flu epidemic. City schools have been ordered closed for the coming week and a quarantine has been declared in hospitals and clinics.

A Cheap Way To Get to JFK

NEW YORK (NYT) — Word of mouth seems to be accomplishing what a splashy advertising campaign did not:

getting air travelers to go to Kennedy International Airport by public transit.

Every day, legions of the budget-conscious take the A train to the Howard Beach-Kennedy stop in Queens County, about an hour from midtown Manhattan. Port Authority buses then take them to the terminals, 10 to 15 minutes away. They only pay the \$1.50 price of a subway token since the bus link is offered free by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey because the buses serve a long-term parking lot that adjoins the subway station.

The subway service transported 2,273 passengers to the Howard Beach station on an av-

erage weekday in August, nearly all of them on airport trips, the Transit Authority said. The number is up from 1,617 in 1992.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices will be closed or services curtailed in the following countries:

MONDAY: Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam.
TUESDAY: Kenya, Mexico, Russia.
WEDNESDAY: Maldives.
THURSDAY: Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, South Africa.
Sources: J.P. Morgan, Reuters.

WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by Accu-Weather.

Europe				Asia			
City	Today	High	Low	City	Today	High	Low
Algeria	12/25	11/25	7/25	Beijing	22/28	16/28	8/28
Amsterdam	5/25	4/25	7/25	Bombay	27/31	23/31	18/31
Antwerp	12/25	11/25	7/25	Hong Kong	27/31	23/31	18/31
Athens	12/25	11/25	7/25	London	21/27	17/27	12/27
Bahamas	12/25	11/25	7/25	New Delhi	27/31	23/31	18/31
Bangkok	27/31	23/31	18/31	Seoul	27/31	23/31	18/31
Berlin	12/25	11/25	7/25	Shanghai	27/31	23/31	18/31
Buenos Aires	12/25	11/25	7/25	Tokyo	27/31	23/31	18/31
Calcutta	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Cardiff	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Cairo	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Canton	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Cebu	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Chengdu	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Colon	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Dakar	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Dallas	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Dhaka	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Dublin	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Edinburgh	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Geneva	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Hankow	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Hong Kong	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Houston	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Kobe	27/31	23/31	18/31				
London	21/27	17/27	12/27				
Los Angeles	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Lyons	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Madrid	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Manchester	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Moscow	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Mumbai	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Nairobi	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Osaka	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Paris	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Perth	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Port of Spain	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Prague	12/25	11/25	7/25				
Rangoon	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Rio de Janeiro	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Riyadh	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Sao Paulo	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Seoul	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Shanghai	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Singapore	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Sydney	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Taipei	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Tokyo	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Winnipeg	27/31	23/31	18/31				
Zurich	12/25	11/25	7/25				

Legend: s=sunny, p=partly cloudy, c=cloudy, sh=showers, th=thunderstorms, r=rain, dr=dry, f=fog, b=blow, a=arctic, l=low, w=weather.

BREITLING
1884



OLD NAVITIMER

NAVITIMER: ON COURSE AND ON TIME. With time a crucial aspect of air travel, pilots and navigators have long viewed their watch as their basic personal instrument. Even with today's sophisticated navigation satellites and radio beacons, "flight computers" like the NAVITIMER are still used for routine calculations.

A slide rule of this kind is built into NAVITIMER mechanical chronographs. The pilot's sole personal instrument, today's NAVITIMERs are based on a design voted official watch of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association in 1952. Relentlessly improved since then, NAVITIMERs are totally efficient and fascinating to operate while their good looks remain as unmistakable as ever.

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Ebola Patient Left Sick Friend In Liberia Village

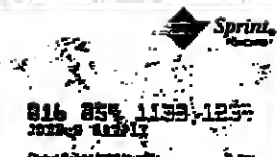
REUTERS
TABOU, Ivory Coast — A Liberian refugee being treated for the Ebola virus in Ivory Coast has told doctors that he left a friend with similar symptoms in his home village in Liberia, a senior official said Sunday.

Colonel Momo Dossou, administrator for Tabou region on the border with war-shattered Liberia, said that as a result he had requested permission for a medical team to cross the border and travel to the village.

Ivory Coast's public health director, Aminata Diarra, said in Abidjan that the Liberian refugee was getting better and that no further cases had been reported in Ivory Coast.

Almost 400,000 Liberian refugees live along Ivory Coast's border with Liberia, many of them around Tabou.

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THE AMERICAS

Dole Muscles His Way Through Iowa

By Dan Balz
Washington Post Service

DES MOINES, Iowa—Two presidential campaigns dominate the political landscape in Iowa, where the race for the Republican nomination kicks off in just two months. One pits the Senate majority leader, Bob Dole of Kansas, against himself, the other is a fierce battle among his rivals to break out of the pack.

Mr. Dole stands far above the field in Iowa, but the battle beneath him has suddenly intensified on the strength of a television advertising blitz that has vaulted the magazine publisher Malcolm S. Forbes Jr. from obscurity into second place in the polls.

Mr. Forbes' rapid rise sets up a lively and unpredictable four-way contest among Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, former Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee and the commentator Patrick J. Bu-

chanan for runner-up in the Feb. 12 caucuses, which can produce a boost heading into New Hampshire a week later.

"It's really shaping up to be what it was in the beginning," said Brian Kennedy, the Iowa Republican chairman. "Bob Dole is the clear front-runner, and then there is the race for second."

Over the years, the Iowa caucuses have proved to be a poor predictor of Republican nominees.

But the voters here often have embraced front-runners or crippled the campaigns of lesser candidates, which is why every campaign is mindful of the consequences of a disappointing finish.

Mr. Dole stumbled this summer, when Mr. Gramm tied him in an informal straw poll at a convention of party activists that featured busloads of non-Iowans brought in by various campaigns. Mr. Gramm's showing jolted Mr. Dole's

complacent organization, and the national campaign recruited Darrell Kearney, a veteran caucus activist with close ties to the Iowa governor, Terry E. Branstad, to run the day-to-day operations.

"We made some significant adjustments," Mr. Branstad, a fellow Republican, said. "We put particular emphasis on building our grass roots in some of the counties that fell down for us."

Mr. Kearney says that the Dole campaign is organized in all 99 Iowa counties. Its goal is one volunteer for every 100 registered Republicans in the roughly 825 targeted precincts that account for 70 percent of the Republican vote.

"They're running the classic caucus campaign," Mr. Kennedy said. "Dole realized they were going to have to muscle it out. They're taking it to a level where the others can't compete."

In the Dole calculation, mus-

cle trumps passion. If he evokes little enthusiasm, Mr. Dole is extraordinarily well liked. The Des Moines Register's Iowa Poll published last week showed that 78 percent of likely caucus attendees had a favorable impression of the Kansan, compared with 20 percent who see him negatively.

Mr. Dole's strongest suit remains familiarity, leadership and experience.

"He has the basic values that we consider important," said Duane Acker, the campaign chairman in Cass County in southwest Iowa.

"Dole is the most mature," said Ralph Meyer, who turned out to hear Elizabeth Hanford Dole campaign for her husband at the Northside Cafe in Winterset, where Clint Eastwood filmed a scene in "The Bridges of Madison County."

But reservations about Mr. Dole give hope to his rivals.

Bill Lawton, a retired farmer who came out to hear Mr. Gramm at a recent town hall meeting in the rural town of Atlantic, said, "You hear the usual things" about Mr. Dole. "He's too old, and he's not a new Republican. And probably too much of a politician."

Paul Aerdema, the Republican chairman from Warren County south of Des Moines, who said he is neutral, said, "I sense in large part dissatisfaction with Senator Dole because of his willingness to compromise."

The latest Iowa Poll shows Mr. Dole with 41 percent of the vote among a sample of 407 likely Republican caucus attendees.

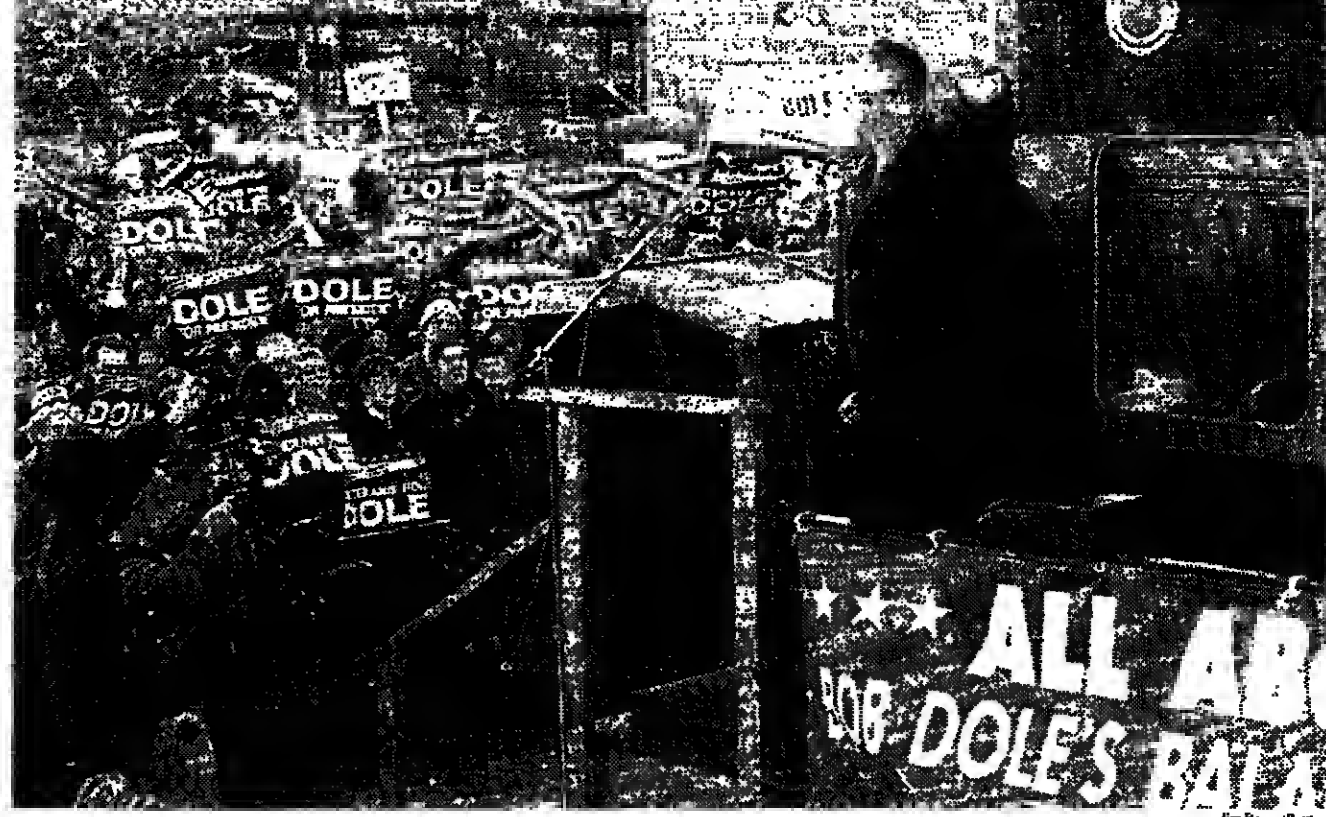
Mr. Forbes, whose television advertising message of economic optimism is the talk of political circles here, ran second with 12 percent, while Mr. Gramm fell from 18 percent just after the straw polls to 9 percent.

Mr. Buchanan had 7 percent, Mr. Alexander, 6 percent; Alan L. Keyes, 4 percent; Senator Richard G. Lugar of Indiana, 3 percent; and Representative Robert K. Dornan of California and the businessman Morry Taylor, 1 percent.

Sixteen percent of respondents said they were undecided.

Mr. Dole's rivals have taken turns attempting to separate themselves from the pack, but none has yet taken hold. They are not as well known or as well liked as the front-runner.

"I let the conventional wisdom stand that Dole is the favorite and that it's a foregone conclusion that he's going to win an overwhelming victory," Mr. Gramm said. "But I don't believe it."



Bob Dole waving at a whistle-stop rally in New Hampshire, where his standing could be affected by the Iowa caucuses.

A Constitutional Showdown?
Senate Panel Seeks White House NotesBy Stephen Labaton
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — The White House has forced a constitutional showdown by refusing a Senate demand for information about a 1993 meeting at which President Bill Clinton's senior lawyers and aides discussed Whitewater.

The Senate Whitewater Committee has voted to issue a subpoena for notes taken during the 1993 meeting and to renew its request for a White House memo written afterward. The White House replied that it would decline any demand for the material about the meeting because it is protected by the attorney-client privilege.

Both administration officials and congressional aides predicted that the high-stakes battle between Republican senators and Mr. Clinton over the limits of congressional investigations and the separation of powers between the two branches of the government was likely to find its way into the federal courts.

They said the fight would almost inevitably spill into the election year, and that the White House refusal to provide the material would make it difficult for the president to maintain that he has offered unrestricted cooperation with

Whitewater investigators.

The case involves a failed Arkansas real estate development, Whitewater, in which Bill and Hillary Rodham Clinton were participants, and the failure of a federally insured savings association owned and operated by their partner in the deal.

The meeting at issue occurred Nov. 5, 1993, just as two politically sensitive investigations were finding their way to the White House. Shortly before the meeting, the White

The White House has acknowledged that it has a memo from the meeting.

House was told by the general counsel at the Treasury Department about an investigation into Madison Guaranty, the savings association owned by James B. McDougal, who was the Clintons' partner in Whitewater.

The White House has said that the Nov. 5 meeting was intended to brief David E. Kendall, the Clintons' new personal lawyer, about a variety of Whitewater issues.

Republicans have asked whether the officials who at-

tended were improperly using any confidential information they had gleaned about the investigations.

William H. Kennedy III, who at the time was an associate White House counsel, took extensive notes at the meeting. The White House has also acknowledged that it has a memo from that meeting. The others at the meeting were three White House officials: Bruce Lindsey, Bernard Nussbaum and Neil Eggleston, and three lawyers who have worked on the personal and financial interests of the First Family: Mr. Kendall, James Lyons and Stephen Engstrom.

In appearances before the committee in recent days, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Lindsey refused to answer questions about the meeting, asserting that the White House had ordered them not to, on the ground that it was protected by attorney-client privilege.

The subpoena requires the White House and Mr. Kennedy to present the notes and memo by Tuesday afternoon or else provide an explanation for why they will not comply. The committee is then expected to decide whether to honor the privilege, although Friday's action made clear that the committee's Republicans will recommend that the full Senate ask a court to enforce the subpoena.

A Gift for Insurers

NEW YORK — Out of the spotlight of the Medicare debate, the nation's private health plans have obtained a series of technical changes in the overhaul approved by Congress that stand to reap them billions of dollars.

One adjustment in the Medicare legislation would raise to 8 percent next year's increase in the amount that private plans are reimbursed by the government for treating the elderly and disabled patients insured by Medicare.

In earlier versions of the legislation, passed separately by the House and Senate, the rate would have been several percentage points lower, making the reimbursements billions of dollars less.

Although President Bill Clinton vetoed last week the budget bill containing the Medicare legislation, the adjustments stand a good chance of surfacing in a compromise plan.

The health care industry says that because of these changes, health maintenance organizations and other private plans would be able to offer greater benefits to enrollees they hope to lure out of the conventional Medicare program.

Critics say the adjustments stand to earn the industry unnecessary profits and will draw a disproportionate number of healthier Medicare recipients out of the program, jeopardizing its financial underpinnings.

Senator Gets His Way

RICHMOND, Virginia — Stalling an effort by conservatives to punish Senator John W. Warner for helping to defeat two

fellow Republicans, Virginia Republicans have yielded to his demand that he be allowed to seek renomination in a state primary, which will be open to voters of both parties.

The party's governing board voted to hold the primary June 11. The party's most conservative wing had wanted a convention to select a nominee, since conservatives dominate party offices and would have been expected to control such an event. But committee members feared that a move to a convention would not withstand a court challenge because the law in Virginia allows the incumbent to select the method of nomination. Virginia does not register voters by party, so any voter can participate in a primary. (NYT)

Flag Backer Backs Off

WASHINGTON — Struggling to line up the required two-thirds majority for his constitutional amendment against flag-burning, Senator Orrin G. Hatch says he will support efforts to limit its impact.

Mr. Hatch, Republican of Utah, said he would support an effort to give only the federal government, and not the states, the power to "prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." He said that would eliminate a problem some opponents of the amendment saw: that the definition of desecration or even of the flag itself could vary by state.

Debate over "desecration" and "burning" interchangeably, although Senator John Glenn, Democrat of Ohio, pointed out that burning was the proper way to dispose of an old flag, and wondered whether it would be criminal if done by someone who was simultaneously complaining about the government.

The Senate has scheduled a vote for Tuesday on the proposed amendment and any changes to it.

Mr. Hatch said he was not sure whether he could get the 66 votes needed, even with this change. The House approved the measure on June 28 by a vote of 312 to 120, and gave the states power to regulate desecration. (NYT)

Clinton Rides Higher

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's approval rating has jumped to 55 percent, his highest rating in seven months, according to a national poll released over the weekend.

The CNN-Time magazine survey of 1,000 voting-age Americans also found that 51 percent think Mr. Clinton is doing a good job of handling foreign policy and 54 percent credit him with providing strong leadership for the country.

Nearly half, 49 percent, said they had more confidence in Mr. Clinton than congressional Republicans in dealing with major national issues. Republicans woo the confidence of 35 percent of respondents. The survey, conducted Dec. 6-7, had a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. (AP)

Quote/Unquote

President Bill Clinton on proposed cuts in Medicaid: "The blunt reality is that as many as 4 million children will simply be denied needed medical care. They will either be turned away from medical facilities, denied preventive care, or be turned out too soon. That is unacceptable in a country that cares about its children, and I will not permit it to happen." (WP)

Away From Politics

• A 62-year-old man who could neither walk nor talk was found abandoned on a flight from El Paso, Texas, to Oakland, Calif. Texas, with a note saying he needed medical attention. The man needed a wheelchair to take him off the plane. The note found with his luggage also indicated that he has a mental disability. (AP)

• A truck jackknifed and then collided with a motor home on a windy, icy highway about 30 miles south of Iowa City, killing seven people aboard the motor home. In a related accident, an eighth person died taking a detour. (AP)

• A New York subway token clerk escaped injury when someone sprayed a flammable liquid inside her booth in a Queens station and set it on fire, the police said. (AP)

• A Colombian woman who pleaded guilty to smuggling drugs into the United States has agreed to forfeit more than \$150 million in proceeds — the largest cash seizure ever in a drug case, officials said in Miami. (AP)

Troubled NAACP Names a New Leader

By Michael A. Fletcher
and Kevin Merida
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The NAACP, struggling under a mountain of debt as it gropes for its place in the modern civil rights movement, has turned to an influential member of Congress to return the organization to its former prominence: Representative Kweisi Mfume of Maryland.

The fifth-term Democratic representative and former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus was unanimously appointed Saturday as president and chief executive officer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a job that will make him the public face of the oldest and largest U.S. civil rights group. Mr. Mfume said he would resign from Congress and assume his new post Feb. 15.

Mr. Mfume, 47, who typically won re-election by huge margins, said he was surrendering his safe seat in Congress because the NAACP post will allow him to pursue issues from a broader platform.

"What pushed me into this was my absolute, utter disdain for the ultra-right-wing agenda that is being foisted on our communities without an equal and opposite grassroots reaction,"

Mr. Mfume said in an interview. "It was clear to me that I could do much more outside than I could do inside Congress."

Mr. Mfume promised to move swiftly on several fronts: to expand voter education and registration campaigns, to emphasize the value of education and individual responsibility to the black community, to develop a financial rehabilitation plan for the organization and to work on the economic problems crippling much of black America.

"We must, without equivocation or timidity, reclaim our rightful place as the voice of African Americans and others who believe in the power and premise that all persons are, in fact, created equal," he said.

Mr. Mfume is assuming the post at perhaps the most critical time in the organization's 86-year history. The organization is deep in debt, unsure of how best to fulfill its mission and struggling to recover from problems that emerged during the brief tenure of the Reverend Benjamin F. Chavis as executive director.

When the board chose Mr. Chavis as its leader in April 1993, his task was not much different from the one facing Mr. Mfume: to reinvigorate the group's image and membership while broadening its mission and fund-raising clout.

But Mr. Chavis lasted less

than 17 months. The board fired him for secretly agreeing to pay \$332,400 in NAACP funds to a former aide to avert a sexual harassment lawsuit.

Mr. Chavis left the organization in a shambles, staggering under its debt, paralyzed by the infighting of its 64-member board and abandoned by major benefactors.

Since his departure, the NAACP has undergone, at best, a modest recovery. Although the debt has shrunk from \$4.8 million to \$3.2 million, its staff was reduced by almost two-thirds, and the group is embroiled in fights with key chapters in Chicago, Baltimore and

Detroit. They disagree on the internal voting rights of youth members and on rules requiring the branches to split money they raise with the national office.

The NAACP also has lost much of its activist edge. Although it claims 76,000 youth members, it is viewed by many as a stodgy organization for the middle class and the middle-aged.

"The NAACP is not the organization it once was," said David Bositis, a senior political analyst for the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. "It doesn't play the role in the lives of black Americans that it once played."

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A Flawed China-Soviet Pact

New Papers Spell Out Stalin-Mao Rifts

By Tim Weiner
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Scholars have unearthed official records of the two meetings between Stalin and Mao. Along with Mao's commentaries on the meetings, they suggest that the Chinese-Soviet alliance that the two men made in Moscow 45 winters ago was founded on shaky ground.

The transcripts of the December 1949 and January 1950 sessions, obtained from Soviet archives, had long been sought by historians of the Cold War. The documents, to be published by the Cold War International History Project of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, contain no great revelations, only the give and take

between the leading Communist titans, and tyrants, of the Cold War. Stalin gives more than he takes.

The first meeting took place in Moscow on Dec. 16, 1949, only months after Mao's revolutionary army had taken control of China. Stalin, taking the attitude of the chairman of the board talking to the chief of a subsidiary, advised Mao that he thought China would have peace for the foreseeable future.

Mao asked Stalin "to send volunteer pilots or secret military detachments to speed up the conquest of Formosa," the island now known as Taiwan, to which the Chinese Nationalists retreated after losing the mainland to the Communists.

Stalin demurred, promising only to consider the request,

and paternalistically advised Mao to foment his own uprising.

Stalin initially startled Mao by seeming to renege on a deal, informally agreed to by diplomats, to do away with provisions of the 1945 Yalta accord governing relations between the Soviet Union and the since-defeated Nationalist government of China.

Stalin and Mao danced around the issue of revising the accord and decided to raise it at their next meeting. In a telegram back to Beijing after the meeting, he called Stalin "really sincere."

Mao then cooled his heels for 17 days, waiting for another audience with Stalin.

When they met again, Stalin changed his tune on Yalta provisions regarding key points in Chinese-Soviet relations. He said he would indeed abrogate them.

The next month, the two nations signed a Chinese-Soviet Treaty, which opened what the United States saw as a new front in the Cold War. But the new records and recently released documents from Chinese archives suggest that the alliance did not have a strong foundation and may have been foredoomed.

The Russians "have never had faith in the Chinese people, and Stalin was among the worst," Mao told the Soviet ambassador, Pavel Yudin, in 1958, five years after Stalin's death, when deep fissures in the Chinese-Soviet alliance were appearing.

Top China Dissident

About to Go on Trial

By Patrick E. Tyler
New York Times Service

BEIJING — China's Communist Party leadership has notified the family of the country's most prominent dissident, Wei Jingsheng, that his trial on charges of trying to overthrow the government will begin Wednesday.

International human-rights groups called on President Bill Clinton over the weekend to condemn the criminal proceedings against the outspoken democracy campaigner, who has already spent 16 years in prison or detention for his essays and public statements.

Two former U.S. attorneys general, Richard L. Thornburgh and Nicholas D. Katzenbach, publicly offered to assist Mr. Wei's family in preparing his defense, although the gesture is sure to be rejected by the Chinese authorities.

The outcry over Mr. Wei's case in part reflects the frustration among his supporters that the Clinton administration, which at one time strongly identified itself with Mr. Wei's

appeal for democracy, has gradually put distance between itself and China's dissidents.

What is also clear, Chinese and American officials say, is that Mr. Wei's fate is being decided as Beijing and Washington are engaged in secret negotiations over the annual effort by the United States and European and other countries to condemn China's human-rights record at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

The question that will only be answered by Mr. Wei's trial and sentencing is whether the Chinese authorities are seeking to exert pressure on Washington to drop the condemnatory initiative in Geneva. But it could also be that they simply want to dispose of Mr. Wei's case well in advance of the Geneva proceedings in March.

Mr. Wei's younger brother, Wei Xiaotao, said over the weekend that the family had retained a prominent Chinese lawyer, Zhang Sizhi.

The charge against Mr. Wei carries a minimum penalty of 10 years in prison and a maximum penalty of death.

Violence Marks Pakistan Strike

6 Die in Karachi as 3-Day Protest Starts

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KARACHI — At least six people were killed here and five banks were set on fire in Hyderabad as an opposition-led general strike on Sunday paralyzed life in major cities of southern Pakistan.

Gunfire echoed across Karachi after the Mohajir Qaumi Movement started a three-day protest over the killings by security forces of two close relatives of a major opposition leader. The dead were Nasir Hussain, 60, and Arif Hussain, 28, brother and nephew of the MQM's London-based leader

Altaf Hussain. Their tortured and bullet-riddled bodies were found on Sunday in Gadap, on the outskirts of Karachi, the Sindh provincial capital and Pakistan's commercial hub.

The provincial senior minister, Nisar Khuhro, said at a news conference that the Sindh government had asked a high court judge to "find the true culprits of the double murder."

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto met her aides in Islamabad to discuss the case. The APP news agency said she had told security agencies to "ex-

pose and arrest the real culprits."

The MQM has accused the security agencies of kidnapping and killing the two men, a charge denied by the government.

"It seems the double murder may be an act of internal warfare," Mr. Khuhro said.

The strike crippled transport. Most of Karachi's estimated 12 million people stayed home for fear of violence. Almost all businesses, including the Karachi Stock Exchange and the cotton and bullion markets, were shut.

(AFP, Reuters)

Bribery Charge for Korea's Chun

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SEOUL — Former President Chun Doo Hwan, indicted for a 1979 military coup, will also be charged with taking bribes while in office, according to prosecutors.

The prosecutors gave no figures, but opposition lawmakers allege that Mr. Chun amassed as much as \$1.9 billion from bribes during his 1980-88 term.

"The full scope of Mr. Chun's secret fund will soon be revealed," the senior prosecutor, Choi Hwan, said. "We intend to file bribery charges as soon as possible."

Mr. Chun was jailed last week on charges that he organized the 1979 military coup that brought him to power. He since has refused to eat, saying the accusations are a political retaliation by President Kim Young Sam, South Korea's first civilian president in 32 years.

Mr. Chun entered the second week of a hunger strike in his detention cell at Anyang Prison outside Seoul, and a prison official said Sunday that his health had deteriorated.

"He is continuing his fasting and his health is not in good shape," a prison official said by telephone.

Japan May Junk Its Leaky Reactor

The Associated Press

TOKYO — An official said Sunday that Japan would scrap plans to use plutonium-based fast-breeder nuclear reactors commercially if it could not pin down the cause of a serious incident in a reactor.

The experimental Monju fast-breeder reactor had to be shut down manually Friday when its corrosive coolant leaked and temperatures shot up, setting off alarms.

Yasumasa Togo, head of Japan's five-member Nuclear Safety Commission, said Saturday that the leak, in a secondary system not directly in contact with the \$5.6 billion reactor, was "very serious."

The Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp., a government corporation that owns Monju, said no radiation was released, but protesters renewed calls to end the project.

Mr. Togo called for a full investigation, and expressed concern that the accident occurred despite stringent safety measures.

"Unless the cause of the accident is sufficiently determined and appropriate steps are taken, fast-breeder reactors will not be used commercially," he said Sunday.

The reactor, in Tsuruga, 335 kilometers (210 miles) west of Tokyo, began generating electricity in August.

Amrullah, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, after the government bombings of a town south of Kabul that was said to have killed 27 rebels: "We had intelligence reports that spoke of unusual movements of Taleban fighters. That usually means they are getting ready for a big attack on Kabul, so we struck them first."

(Reuters)

Mamta, who lives in a shantytown in south Delhi, after her children, along with about 75 million others, were inoculated in a one-day anti-polio campaign: "I have fewer worries now about my two children's health after today's dosage." (AP)

BRIEFLY

Look at Afghans, Red Cross Says

KABUL — The International Committee of the Red Cross has criticized the international community for what it says is indifference to suffering in Afghanistan.

"The international community failed to give much-needed support to the mission of Ambassador Mestiri," the Red Cross said, referring to the UN mediator, Mahmoud Mestiri. It also said UN agencies had failed to persuade donors to take a more active role in Afghanistan at a special donors conference in May in Stockholm.

The group said tens of thousands of people had been killed, wounded or detained in factional fighting that began in 1992, while hundreds of thousands had been displaced. (Reuters)

Jakarta Frees East Timorese

JAKARTA — Indonesian police freed 55 East Timorese protesters and sympathizers Sunday, 24 hours after they ended a three-day occupation of the Dutch Embassy.

A spokesman said the protesters were freed after questioning. He said no charges would be filed.

The release ended a standoff that began when 112 East Timorese and Indonesian sympathizers broke into the Russian and Dutch embassies Thursday. They demanded the withdrawal of military forces from the former Portuguese colony and a referendum there on its political future. (Reuters)

Bangladeshis Fight in Streets

DHAKA, Bangladesh — Government supporters and opponents fought in the streets of the Bangladeshi capital Sunday, using guns, homemade grenades and stones.

Several people were injured in the fighting. Witnesses said it erupted when hundreds of activists from the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party ran into an opposition march. (Reuters)

VOICES From Asia

Amrullah, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, after the government bombings of a town south of Kabul that was said to have killed 27 rebels: "We had intelligence reports that spoke of unusual movements of Taleban fighters. That usually means they are getting ready for a big attack on Kabul, so we struck them first."

(Reuters)

Mamta, who lives in a shantytown in south Delhi, after her children, along with about 75 million others, were inoculated in a one-day anti-polio campaign: "I have fewer worries now about my two children's health after today's dosage." (AP)



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Maybe it was an old woman who gave up her place on a refugee boat so that a mother and child could escape certain death. Or the dignity with which an ordinary family, confronted with the unthinkable, endured famine, flood, disease or war. It might have been an act of insane courage, by someone whose name will never find a place in history books.

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EUROPE

BRIEFLY EUROPE

WEU to Hold Crisis Exercise

BRUSSELS — The Western European Union will begin phase one of its first crisis management exercise Friday, the embryonic European military force announced Sunday.

The first phase of the three-part exercise runs through Dec. 21. The operational planning and force projection phases will follow the decision-making phase in June and next December.

Twenty-six countries will join phase one, including full members, observer states, associate members and East European associate partners, the organization said. (AFP)

Party Rift Shakes Bonn Coalition

BONN — Fissures in Germany's Free Democrats not only show no sign of abating ahead of a showdown vote this week but have begun to cast a shadow over Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition.

The junior partner that gives Mr. Kohl his 10-seat majority will announce Thursday the result of a members' poll on a bid by Mr. Kohl's conservatives to allow electronic eavesdropping on private homes to fight organized crime.

The poll has sparked speculation about the survival of the party's cabinet ministers. Newspapers Sunday reported party opposition to Economics Minister Günter Rexrodt, while Justice Minister Sabine Leutheusser-Scharrenberger has said she will quit if the plan wins clear support. (Reuters)

Papandreou Breathes on His Own

ATHENS — The ailing Greek prime minister, Andreas Papandreou, was in stable condition and breathing on his own without the help of a respirator for more than 24 hours, a hospital statement said Sunday.

A government spokesman said the prime minister could go home this month. But doctors have said it is doubtful that he can resume his duties even if he survives his illness.

Mr. Papandreou, 76, was rushed to hospital with pneumonia three weeks ago. (Reuters)

Irish Want IRA to Yield Weapons

DUBLIN — Most Irish voters want the Irish Republican Army to reverse policy and hand over its guns to win admission to new Northern Ireland peace talks, an opinion survey showed Sunday.

The poll was published in the Sunday Tribune of Dublin three days after the IRA said it would be "judicious" to give up weapons used to fight British rule of Northern Ireland.

According to the poll, 45 percent of voters thought the IRA should hand over all guns and explosives before the talks, while 31 percent thought it should surrender some as a gesture to win admission to the negotiations. (Reuters)

Saboteur Attacks French Reactor

BORDEAUX — A saboteur put salt into a cooling system at a nearby French nuclear power plant, officials said Sunday, and its turbines have been repeatedly shut down mysteriously.

About 500 grams (1 pound) of sodium chloride were added to the secondary cooling system of reactor No. 3 at the Blayais plant Friday, plant officials said. The substance was immediately detected and removed without requiring the shutdown of the plant, they said. (AP)

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Monday:
STRASBOURG: European Parliament meets.

BANGKOK: The external trade commissioner, Sir Leon Britan, attends EU-ASEAN meeting.

BRUSSELS: Manuel Marin, vice president of the commission for relations with South America, unveils the EU-Mercosur agreement. SOURCES: Agence Europe, AFP.

Corruption in Italy:
A Popular Pastime

By Celestine Bohlen
New York Times Service

ROME — Cheating the government is such an old and popular sport in Italy that stories about fraud, graft and abuse of public office take on a certain ho-hum quality. True, the great corruption scandals of 1992 made a big noise, bringing down an entire political class, but since then, it has been pretty much business as usual.

Evermore investigations produce evermore evidence of wrongdoing, not just among top politicians and businessmen but also among ordinary Italians.

"All of us, to a greater or lesser extent, are part of this crafty culture, all of us are ready to slip a bribe to a traffic cop so that he looks the other way," said Giuseppe De Rita, who heads the National Council of the Economy and Work.

That this way of life continues to permeate all facets of society is no surprise here. President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro recently noted with dismay that state officials continue "to take money that is not theirs."

In the meantime, the state still is not getting its due: unreported, and thus untaxed, income reached an estimated 18 billion lire, or about \$12 billion, in the first 10 months of this year, according to a national audit.

Most recently, it has been the army's turn to face a scandal investigation. Investigators in Padua, Milan and Rome have unraveled a web of corruption that ranges from inflated procurement contracts to kickbacks on expense accounts to bribes for military exemptions. So far, 2,000 to 6,000 military officials are being investigated.

In a book titled "The Italy That Cheats," the research institute Eurispes offered a handy list of common Italian sins, petty and great. Some are hardly unique to Italy, such as a general disdain for speed limits and seat belts or copyright violations on computer software and videocassettes.

Others are deeply rooted in the national economy, such as the more than 7 million people in the "black economy," either moonlighting or working at jobs that are either illegal, undeclared, or both.

The case of the "fake invalids" is a good example of the kind of deception that has long been accepted by the Italian political system. This is a scandal, now in the news again, that really dates back to 1968 when Italy adopted a law setting aside 15 percent of all jobs in both the public and private sector for people with disabilities — the partly blind, deaf and physically handicapped.

Since "disabled" people could jump to the head of state hiring lists, even in periods when public hiring was technically frozen, their jobs became highly desired by healthy people, particularly those with money to pay for fake medical certificates, or those with friends in the right places.

"This law was very important for the protection of the disabled," said Franco Pratini, minister of public administration who has initiated the latest investigation into fake invalid cases. "Unfortunately, this law was very poorly applied."

That may be an understatement. According to preliminary findings, about 30,000 out of the 150,000 "invalids" working in the public sector are perfectly healthy. The number may be even higher, judging from inspections in Rome that indicated that two out of three disability cases were false.

Italian newspapers have their favorite cases: the postal clerk with "congenital back problems" who also worked as a gym instructor, or the "blind" state employee who was found driving a Porsche during his off-hours.

Mr. Lambrelli's organization tried for years to publicize cases of fake invalids, but his efforts went nowhere, even though the scam was not only widespread, but well-known.

"It is absurd," he said in a published interview. "It is time say 'Enough!'"

Poland's President-Elect Gets Partial Court Victory



Opponents of President-elect Kwasniewski whistling and chanting their anger over Supreme Court ruling.

WARSAW — Poland's president-elect, Aleksander Kwasniewski, survived a move to overturn his victory over the Lech Walesa, the incumbent and former Solidarity leader, over the weekend, but a court ruling that he had misled voters over his education could damage his authority.

The Supreme Court ruled that Mr. Kwasniewski, a former Communist turned social democrat, had broken electoral law by falsely claiming during his campaign that he held an economics degree.

But it rejected an application, backed by nearly 600,000 Walesa supporters, that Mr. Kwasniewski's narrow victory on Nov. 19 victory be annulled. It said it was impossible to determine how his claims had affected people's preferences.

Mr. Kwasniewski won the election by three percentage points, ending five years in office for Mr. Walesa.

The ruling was a mixed blessing for Mr. Kwasniewski, as even his closest allies testified.

"This is obviously not a comfortable situation," said Prime Minister Jozef Oleksy, a former

Communist. "It has cast a shadow over the whole campaign," he told PAP news agency.

During a sometimes bitter electoral campaign, the articulate and elegant Mr. Kwasniewski presented himself as a pragmatic leader capable of uniting a nation divided over the past. He clearly convinced many skeptics that he, rather than Mr. Walesa, was the man to lead Poland into the European Union and NATO.

His appearances on television were impressive and reassuring, while Mr. Walesa sometimes appeared emotional and overwrought.

The court ruling opens the way for the swearing-in ceremony on Dec. 23, but commentators say it also sets the scene for vehement attacks on the president.

"Many people may think that since Kwasniewski was dishonest about small things he may not be frank about bigger issues," said Halina Franczak, a sociologist of the Demoskop institute. She said the ruling could help the rightist opposition in parliamentary elections due in 1997, if it can overcome its own rivalries.

An Open Letter to the People of Europe

On the eve of the historic vote by the European Parliament on Turkey's entry into the Customs Union, I want to speak directly to the people of Europe on behalf of the citizens of Turkey.

When Mustafa Kemal Atatürk founded the modern Turkish Republic seven decades ago, he pointed Turkey firmly toward the West. Over this period, we have built a vibrant Western democracy at home and have consistently stood with the Western nations for peace and freedom abroad.

Ours is a relatively young democracy and still evolving. But we cherish the Western democratic values that were nurtured by your countries and we strive to perfect our democratic institutions.

Turkish citizens find that few Europeans are aware of our pioneering human rights activities. We have long provided a haven for peoples fleeing from religious oppression. 500 years ago we welcomed the Jews who were expelled from Spain... And 400 years ago, Protestants from Germany during the "30 Years War"... And, again, 60 years ago, Jews who were persecuted by the Nazis. We were also a leader in granting women suffrage in 1934, before many European nations.

Atatürk took dramatic steps to build Western institutions at an astonishing pace; we have carried forward his legacy. Our press is vibrant and free to criticize or attack the government, including the Prime Minister, on either personal or official grounds. We have opened our electronic media to private competition, quickly moving from two state television channels to 15 national channels, 360 local TV stations, and 1500 local radio stations. We may well now have the most varied and intensively competitive electronic media of any European nation. You know how effective a truly free press can be in probing government, exposing abuses and opening society. Ours is playing that role every day. Indeed the Turkish people have developed a media craving — with talk shows broadcasting all night, giving every point of view a hearing, and airing conflicting opinions from citizens across the country.

Our national election, to be held on December 24, will be another indication of our open political system. Twelve parties will be competing, representing the full range of views from left to right. Our elections are hotly contested, and conducted with widely recognized integrity and transparency. And to equalize parties, no paid television or radio commercials are allowed; instead, air time is provided to each party.

Consider, as well, our record as an ally of the West. For 40 years, we were a front-line state for Europe as a member of NATO in the battle against communism. Our soldiers readily stood with those from many of your countries in Korea, as well as in the Gulf War. We are providing facilities even now for Western

aircraft to fly missions to safeguard the embattled Iraqi Kurds.

At this moment, Turkish troops are participating as peacekeepers in Bosnia and more will soon be part of the NATO force. We are also providing police in Bosnia and have already committed \$80 million in aid to reconstruction. Turkey has been selected to coordinate all aid to Bosnia by the Organization of Islamic Conference.

I suspect that most Europeans would be surprised to learn of the generosity of Turkish citizens, who rank fourth in the world in foreign assistance based on GNP. This includes major financial and technical assistance to the newly-independent states of the former Soviet Union, as we help to stabilize their economies and strengthen their political institutions.

The racial and ethnic enmity and violence that has again erupted in Europe is a source of deep concern to our people. As a Muslim nation, we watched with alarm the inability of the world to stop the bloodshed in Bosnia; and we welcome the peace that has now arrived. Our citizens are also troubled by reports of incidents of discrimination and violence against Muslim residents of Europe.

We are confident that we can play a constructive role in stimulating understanding and tolerance in Europe, just as we have served as a bridge for peace in this difficult and unstable region. For example, we recognized Israel in 1948 while maintaining good relations with our Arab neighbors and aiding the Palestinians.

We are, in fact, a unique state. We are the only secular democracy among the world's 53 Muslim nations. We offer a different model to the Muslim world, just as we would bring a different cultural perspective to Europe.

We hope that this "Open Letter" to Europe's citizens will give you a better understanding of Turkey's democracy, as well as the hopes and concerns of our 60 million people.

Entering the Customs Union will not be an end for the Turkish people. Atatürk set us on a course of constant reform and improvement. Unlike some societies, we continually debate and struggle how to make our system better. Our people are truly excited by the prospect not just of joining with you, but of an open exchange of cultures and ideas. We know that we will bring insights to Europe, and that from you we will find new ways to upgrade and modernize all aspects of our economic, social and political life. Our citizens will not rest until we have joined the first ranks of Europe in every aspect of our national life.

The Turkish people, who have willingly sacrificed and stood with you at the frontiers of freedom, now look forward to standing with you in working to expand our mutual prosperity, as well as Western values and our social and political well-being.

Prof. Dr. Tansu Çiller
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Foot-Weary Rally On Foot in Paris

1,500 Commuters March

PARIS — Serge Caboché could handle the four-hour traffic jams. He could even deal with abandoning his car and hitchhiking the rest of the way to work.

But when a passing truck threw up chunks of mud and snow all over his chic Pierre Cardin suit, France's paralyzing transit strike went too far.

On Sunday, Mr. Caboché turned the tables, rallying 1,500 fellow commuters in a counter-demonstration against the strikers, whose walkout against government austerity measures has held France hostage for 2½ weeks.

"France is liberty, equality, fraternity — and liberty means being able to get to work," he said angrily. "There are no buses, no trains, no subways. People are tired. They're hard-hit."

Unions representing the strikers refused the commuters' call for minimal rush-hour transportation Sunday and repeated their demand for face-to-face talks with Prime Minister Alain Juppé.

Workers Force, one of the



Protesters in Paris calling on Sunday for restoration of public transportation services.

most powerful unions representing railroad workers, vowed in a statement to rally 2 million people in nationwide protests set for Tuesday.

The strike, France's worst in a decade, has crippled mail delivery, closed schools and forced many hospitals to offer only emergency services.

But it has brought public transportation to a complete halt since Nov. 24, creating a colorful drama as people walk, cycle, hitchhike and roller-skate to work. Rides that took 30 minutes now take three to four hours.

The protesting commuters chanted, "Riders are exhausted!" "France Held Hostage" and "Minimal Service," and wore hats decorated with subway tickets as they marched Sunday from Place Châtelet in the heart of Paris to the vacant Gare d'Est train station.

"In the evening, it's especially difficult. It's very tiring," said Isabelle Jacquelin, a Paris trader who has had to hitchhike to work. "I'm not angry — not at all. But I have to get to work, and I don't think

Zedillo Courts Mexicans in the States

Tighter Links Sought to Citizens North of the Border

By Sam Dillon
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — The government is campaigning hard for an amendment to the Mexican Constitution that would allow Mexicans living in the United States to retain Mexican nationality rights even when they adopt U.S. citizenship.

The double nationality amendment, as it is known, aims to remove legal hindrances that have discouraged Mexicans legally in the United States, estimated at 2 million to 3 million, from naturalizing and registering as voters, officials said.

Some analysts say the government hopes the amendment will enable Mexican-Americans to help defend Mexican interests in the United States. Officials deny that is the aim.

Although the amendment has not yet been submitted to Congress, news of it has spread through Mexican-American

communities, and an Immigration and Naturalization Service spokesman said it had already encouraged thousands of Mexicans to request citizenship.

The proposal has also provoked a backlash. The California Republican Party, calling the amendment an attempt to "influence U.S. internal affairs in order to advance Mexican national interests," has begun a letter-writing campaign aimed at pressuring the Clinton administration to oppose it.

The amendment is part of an effort by President Ernesto Zedillo to forge closer ties with Mexicans living in the United States. Academics said that the initiative, begun during the past administration but which Mr. Zedillo has put at the center of his foreign policy, was a sharp reversal after decades in which governments either ignored expatriates or referred to them as *pochos*, or cultural traitors.

Operating through Mexican consulates

from Miami to Anchorage, the Zedillo government is courting Mexicans north of the border with new services ranging from literacy classes for lettuce pickers to business advice for entrepreneurs and soccer leagues for youths.

José Angel Gurria, Mexico's foreign minister, said in an interview that the campaign was aimed at reminding those of Mexican heritage living in the United States of their roots.

"It is designed to stress our common language, the culture, the history," he said. He denied any attempt to turn Mexican-Americans into political allies.

"This is not to influence Mexico's relationship with the United States. This is so they can organize to defend their own interests."

Mr. Zedillo, raised in the border town of Mexicali and educated at Yale, has his own strong U.S. ties and has been pushing the initiative at every opportunity.

Q&A / Economic 'Milestone'

ASEAN Moves on Expansion

Southeast Asian leaders will meet in Bangkok later this week. Aji Singh, secretary-general of ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, discussed the significance of the meeting with Michael Richardson of the International Herald Tribune.

Q. Meetings of heads of government of ASEAN are few and far between. Why have they chosen to meet now?

A. It follows the decision ASEAN leaders took at their fourth summit in Singapore in 1992 to meet every three years. The highlights of the Bangkok summit on Thursday and Friday will be the signing of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty. Discussions on it have been held with all countries in the region, the nuclear weapon states, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other interested parties.

Another milestone will be the meeting between the leaders of the seven ASEAN member states — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam — and their counterparts from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar (Burma). It will be the first such meeting of all the leaders of the region, and it marks the final phase of enlarging ASEAN that started when Vietnam joined the group in July.

Q. When Vietnam joined, some concerns were expressed that having a Communist country in a non-Communist organization would create divisions and make it harder to reach consensus decisions. Is that happening?

A. From what I can see, Vietnam is making conscientious efforts to blend into the ASEAN way of doing things, the basic feature of which is the consensus approach. Vietnam seems quite comfortable with this and is adapting to it remarkably well.

There could be problems ahead, though, in the economic area in which, for understandable reasons, Vietnam may find it difficult to move at the same pace as other ASEAN members. A system will, therefore, have to be devised to enable those who can move ahead to do so, while the others are given a breathing space, without necessarily holding up the whole process.

Q. ASEAN's economic ministers recently agreed to advance the date for establishing free

trade in the region to 2000, eight years ahead of the original deadline proposed by the group. Will ASEAN leaders throw their political weight behind that decision by endorsing it in Bangkok?

A. The 1992 summit in Singapore agreed to a 15-year time frame for implementing AFTA, the ASEAN Free Trade Area. That period has since been reduced to 10 years, so that AFTA will be implemented by the year 2003.

At this rate, by the year 2000 over 90 percent of the total tariff lines in ASEAN would have tariff rates of no more than five percent. For the group to achieve this in nearly half the time frame originally agreed is a great accomplishment.

What the ASEAN economic ministers decided in Brunei in September was to increase the number of items in the zero to five percent tariff category, and to deepen the tariff cut on those items to zero by the year 2000.

Q. ASEAN leaders have invited their counterparts from Burma, Laos and Cambodia to meet them in Bangkok. How can such an invitation to Burma be justified when the military regime in Rangoon refuses to negotiate on political reform with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leader, and her party, which won an overwhelming majority of votes in the 1990 national elections?

A. Myanmar is part of Southeast Asia and has friendly relations with all ASEAN members. As a rule, ASEAN does not interfere in the domestic affairs of either its members or other countries.

Q. Why does ASEAN feel it is so important to achieve a united Southeast Asia by having Burma, Cambodia and Laos join as members of the group by 2000?

A. No such target date has been set. Potential new members will be joining at their own pace and of their own volition. Laos has announced its intention to join in 1997 and Cambodia soon after. Myanmar has applied for observer status in ASEAN and this is under consideration.

An ASEAN with all 10 countries in Southeast Asia as its members has been the vision of the group's founding fathers. Realizing it would make ASEAN a community with a combined population of over 470 million and a factor for peace, prosperity and stability in the region.

BOSNIA:

French Deadline

Continued from Page 1

might do if the Serbs continue to hold the pilots and conceal what has happened to them.

Suggestions have ranged from an attempt to reimpose trade sanctions on Serbia to a commando raid in Serb-held Bosnia aimed at rescuing the two men.

The pilots were filmed bailing out of their stricken jet and photographed surrounded by their Bosnian Serb captors. But Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, later said the two men had been "kidnapped" from their hospital beds.

Last week, Mr. Karadzic suggested that if France would be helpful in resolving the difficulties of the Serbs living in areas of Sarajevo that must be surrendered to the Bosnian government under the terms of the peace agreement, the issue of the pilots might be cleared up more easily. This suggestion was brusquely dismissed by the French government.

Over the last several months, Mr. Milosevic has proved able to coerce the Bosnian Serbs into doing what he wants.

There is no question that the Serbian president, whose focus is now entirely on peace and improving Serbia's relations with the West, would favor the pilots' release. The fact that he has been unable to do anything may therefore be an ominous sign.

The government of Serb-dominated Yugoslavia last week rejected the French ultimatum, describing it as "unacceptable."

■ Russia Urges Release

Foreign Minister Andrei V. Kozirev said Serbian leaders had good reasons to reveal the fate of two French pilots missing in Bosnia and urged their release if they were alive, Inter-Tass news agency reported on Sunday, according to Reuters.

Mr. Kozirev, recalling that Russia and France were the closest traditional allies of the Serbs, was also quoted as calling for a suspension of moves to put the Bosnian Serb leaders, Mr. Karadzic and Radko Mladic, on trial for war crimes.

"I think that the Serb leaders have sufficient reasons to communicate the fate of the pilots," Tass quoted him as saying in London.

"If they are alive, then I would strongly recommend urgently returning them to the French."



LAUREATE — Joseph Rotblat, Pugwash Conference founder, receiving Nobel Peace Prize on Sunday.

ASIAN:

Arms Ban Set

Continued from Page 1

both a naval power and a Pacific power.

"And the basis of our power, at least in part, is our military strength," he said. "And the right of passage and other issues are very important."

Mr. Burns said Washington also wanted assurances that the Southeast Asian treaty would not disturb existing regional security arrangements. The United States has mutual defense pacts with two countries in the region — Thailand and the Philippines.

China objected to the geographical scope of the treaty, specifically to its inclusion of parts of the South China Sea to which it and some ASEAN members have conflicting claims.

The United States said it had given ASEAN a list of conditions that would have to be met before Washington signed a protocol on the treaty.

Nonetheless, Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian prime minister, made it clear at the weekend that the treaty would still be signed, even though it would be difficult to ensure its effectiveness without the cooperation of the nuclear powers.

The draft treaty covers the land area, territorial waters, the 322-kilometer exclusive economic zones and continental shelves of the signatory states.

It prohibits them from manufacturing, possessing, testing or using nuclear weapons, but allows ships and aircraft of nuclear powers to transit through international waters and air space.

Under the pact, it would be up to individual countries to decide whether to allow aircraft and ships of nuclear powers to land or make port calls.

Mr. Burns said Friday that among its concerns, the Clinton administration was insisting that the treaty prohibit South-east Asian countries from "possessing any nuclear device for whatever purpose."

To give the nuclear weapon-free zone international credibility, the five declared nuclear weapon states — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — were asked to sign supporting protocols.

Newspaper Shut Down By Algeria

Reuters

PARIS — Algerian authorities on Sunday ordered the French-language newspaper *Liberté* to shut for two weeks and arrested the editor and director-general, accusing the daily of carrying tendentious information, the newspaper said.

Editors of independent newspapers decided to close their own papers Tuesday, using Monday's editions to denounce the authorities' suspension of *Liberté*, a spokesman for the suspended paper said. It was not immediately clear how long the papers would remain closed.

The spokesman, speaking by telephone from Algiers, said the Interior Ministry had ordered the suspension of *Liberté* for two weeks, starting Monday. He said the editors believed the authorities shut the paper because of a report it published Thursday about a senior aide to President Liamine Zerrouli, Mohammed Betchine.

Liberté's director-general, Outoudet Arouss, and editor, Hassan Ouadji, were detained Sunday at Algiers airport as they were about to leave for France, the spokesman said. The editor was later released but the director was held pending a further hearing and possible trial.

NIGERIA: An Uneasy Silence Settles In After a Writer's Execution Stirs World's Anger

Continued from Page 1

impede oil companies' projects around Rivers State. Rivers, 280 miles south-east of Lagos, produces more than 60 percent of Nigeria's oil.

The executions drew strong protests from President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, the State Department, several other foreign governments and rights groups. The nations of the Commonwealth voted to suspend Nigeria.

To many Ogonis, the hangings represent the government's attempt to crush the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People, known as MOSOP. That organization, of which Mr. Saro-Wiwa was a top leader, brought worldwide attention to the plight of communities throughout Rivers.

As evidence of the government's intentions, the Ogonis note the silence that has settled over their land. No one pub-

licly identifies with MOSOP. Since the executions, the Ogonis have held no public protests. Many MOSOP leaders, fearing arrest, have gone into hiding.

The government has refused to return Mr. Saro-Wiwa's body to his family; he is buried in a weedy public cemetery in nearby Port Harcourt.

Residents say soldiers confiscated newspapers with stories about the executions; they also say that public gatherings were banned, and that several pastors accused of supporting the activists were arrested.

Government officials deny such actions and insist that they have removed most of the thousands of soldiers and police who saturated Ogoniland throughout 1994.

Other authorities insist that human-rights organizations and the Western media fell victim to a slick public relations campaign by Mr. Saro-Wiwa,

who lobbied extensively with officials and the media around the world.

That sentiment is echoed by some Ogonis, who accuse Mr. Saro-Wiwa of being a con man who endorsed violence, banished moderates and exaggerated the problems of his people.

Those critics assert that a MOSOP youth wing formed by Mr. Saro-Wiwa terrorized Ogonis who did not support his push for an Ogoni nation and who favored a more conciliatory approach to Shell and the government. Those people were dubbed "vultures" by Mr. Saro-Wiwa, witnesses, by Mr. Saro-Wiwa.

"Ken Saro-Wiwa was a fake," said Priscilla Vikue, 37, one of those Ogonis labeled a vulture. "He wanted power. He told people what they wanted to hear."

She said he "told them they would become rich and drive Mercedes-Benz

and not have to work for it."

MOSOP supporters admit that violence crept into their movement, but say that Mr. Saro-Wiwa and others sought to quell those forces.

Mr. Saro-Wiwa's defenders say he implored Ogonis to demand their rights, urging them to fight for a greater share of oil revenues. His persistence, those supporters say, forced Shell to abandon Ogoniland in early 1993 and helped move the government to raise compensation rates for oil-producing areas from 3 percent to 13 percent.

But some MOSOP activists hold secret meetings, crafting strategies to revive their movement. They say their struggle must begin from within the government has seized most of the organization's documents and many leaders have fled.

"The movement cannot die," the teacher said. "It is in our blood."

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INTERNATIONAL

Bosnia's Gordian Knot

Allies Name Carl Bildt to Head Rebuilding

By Richard W. Stevenson
New York Times Service

LONDON — The United States and its major European allies used the conference on planning the reconstruction of Bosnia to demonstrate their commitment to bringing peace and stability to the former Yugoslavia did not end with the dispatch of troops to Bosnia.

But the two-day meeting in London attended by more than 40 countries was slowed by the sheer scale of the problems, from repatriating refugees and rebuilding houses to restarting the shattered economy.

The countries did not even try to address the critical question of who would pay for a program that in the long run could cost \$5 billion or more.

And while they settled on Carl Bildt, the former Swedish prime minister and European envoy to the Bosnia peace talks, to lead the civilian reconstruction effort, they only touched on the complexities of specific issues, such as how to create a central bank, or a police force acceptable to all parties.

For peace to take root, they said, governments and international agencies would have to work together to create out of the rubble of war the physical, political, legal and economic foundations of a stable society.

The presence of 60,000 NATO troops in Bosnia "can help insure that the wounds of war do not reopen during the next year," Madeline K. Albright, the U.S. representative to the United Nations, said Saturday. "But the only concentrated therapy that can heal those wounds is the hard work of restoring Bosnia's economy, democracy and respect for the rule of law."

But delegates to the conference acknowledged that efforts to turn their commitment into action would be complex, time-consuming, expensive and potentially fraught with conflicts.

No one could say in detail how or when the more than 2 million people who were forced from their homes would return. They include about 1.7 million refugees outside Bosnia.

Sadako Ogata, the UN high commissioner for

refugees, said there had not yet been any comprehensive survey of what housing was available in what towns, and that it remained unclear how much it might cost to provide housing for those who wanted to return.

Many other issues remained unresolved, including whether refugees who have not returned to Bosnia by the time elections are held, probably next summer, could vote by absentee ballot.

The United Nations was given the task of providing a temporary police force, and said it would try to recruit 1,500 officers from member nations to provide a skeleton law-enforcement agency and begin recruiting and training Bosnians for the job.

J. Brian Atwood, the administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, said one of the biggest challenges would be creating a functioning economy in a country that had not only been decimated by war, but that had not really even begun the shift from communism to capitalism before fighting broke out.

Economic redevelopment would require steps like setting up a central bank and a currency, and rebuilding factories and roads, delegates said.

The Bosnian foreign minister, Mohammed Sacirbey, said the country's goal was to restore the per capita income of its citizens, which is now almost nothing, to two-thirds of its prewar level in five years. He said Bosnia would need at least \$1 billion a year in international aid for the next three to five years to rebuild the economy.

But even before there were any comprehensive independent estimates of the cost of reconstruction, the United States and Europe were haggling over who would pay how much.

Before the conference, the Clinton administration rejected a proposal by France that the United States and Europe each pay a third of the reconstruction bill, with the rest picked up by wealthy countries, Islamic and otherwise.

Citing its budget difficulties and the need to focus on congressional support for sending 20,000 troops to Bosnia, the administration has proposed paying around \$600 million, about a third of what Europe wants the United States to contribute.



Carl Bildt making a phone call at London conference while musicians wait to begin.

Life in Prison For Stowaway Murders

Reuters

ROUEN, France — A French court sentenced the Ukrainian captain of a cargo ship and his second-in-command to life imprisonment Sunday for killing eight African stowaways at sea off Portugal in 1992.

The court also sentenced three other Ukrainian crewmen from the vessel, the MC Ruby, to 20 years each in prison for beating the eight with an iron bar, shooting them and dumping their bodies in the Atlantic Ocean.

Judge Jean Reynaud read out the sentences after more than 12 hours of deliberations by the jury, ending a monthlong trial over the deaths of seven Ghanaians and one Cameroonian.

The grisly killings were discovered only because one Ghanaian stowaway, Kingsley Ofusu, managed to escape the massacre and hide in the hold of the vessel.

He sneaked ashore when the MC Ruby docked in a French port and told his story to the police. He took a handful of cocoa beans from the hold to help support his story.

The court sentenced the Ukrainian captain, Vladimir Ilitskiy, 60, and his second-in-command, Valery Artemenko, to life in jail. Life in jail is France's harshest criminal penalty since capital punishment was abolished in 1981.

Three Ukrainian sailors — Oleg Mikhailevsky, Petr Bondarenko and Sergei Romashenko — accused of carrying out the killings, were sentenced to 20 years in prison each.

The jury acquitted a sixth defendant, Dzhamal Arakhamiya, from the Georgian region of Abkhazia.

Unlike the others sentenced from the MC Ruby's 23-strong crew, Captain Ilitskiy had been accused only of complicity in the crimes.

The other four were accused of kidnapping, murder and attempted murder.

The public prosecutor at the trial had urged the court to sentence all the defendants to life imprisonment and had called Captain Ilitskiy a man "who forbade nothing, a Pontius Pilate who seeks refuge in false innocence."

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New Sex Scandal Sinks a U.S. Admiral 'Involved' With Aide

By Eric Schmitt
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — In the latest setback for an increasingly beleaguered navy, a senior admiral in Europe has been demoted and forced to retire early after being found guilty of sexually harassing a woman who works for him.

A navy inquiry concluded last week that the officer, Rear Admiral Ralph L. Tindal, who is deputy commander of NATO forces in Spain and Portugal, was involved in "an inappropriate" yearlong affair with a female enlisted aide.

Admiral Tindal, a 55-year-old Naval Academy graduate, was found guilty of adultery, first-

erization, conduct unbecoming an officer and sexual harassment, said Rear Admiral Kendell Pease, a navy spokesman.

Admiral Tindal was given a punitive reprimand, fined a month's pay of about \$7,700, and placed under house arrest for 30 days. After the punishment was ordered, Admiral Tindal, a 35-year navy veteran, requested early retirement. He will be demoted a rank to one-star admiral when he leaves the navy early next year.

The severe administrative punishment reflects the navy's desire to make a stern example of Admiral Tindal for abusing his position of authority with a female subordinate. But the navy did not want to send the admiral to a court martial

that would prolong the navy's embarrassment and, one navy official said Friday, "revictimize" the female aide.

Instead, his case was heard at an admiral's mast, a private administrative hearing.

The woman, an enlisted aide, has been ordered to undergo counseling but will stay in the navy. She is believed to be in her 20s, but the navy would not identify her or give her age. Officials said the difference in the ranks and ages of the admiral and his aide were factors in the case.

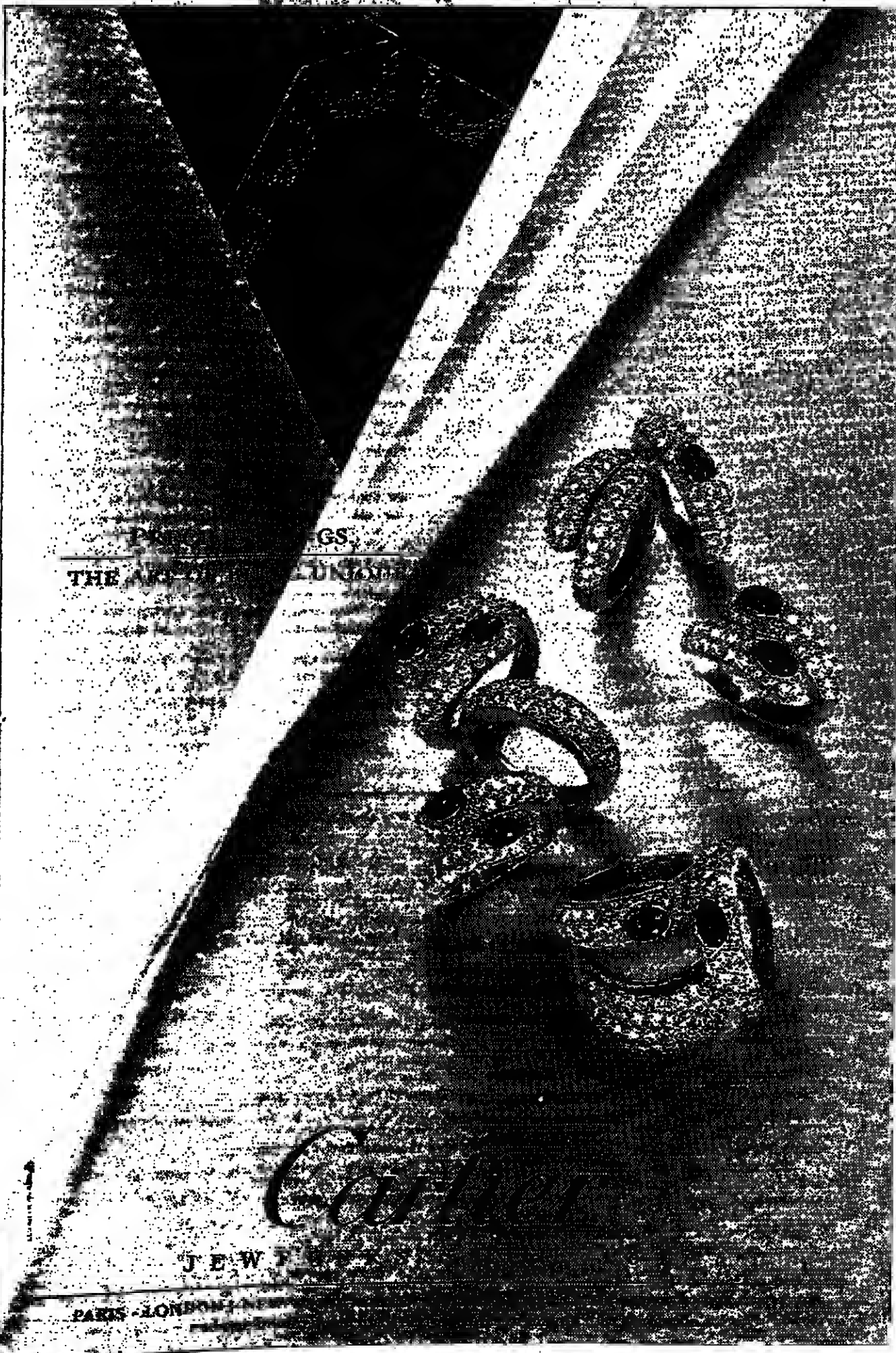
Admiral Pease said the administrative assistant had entered into "an extended intimate relationship" with the admiral, her superior. "But there were elements that were not entirely

consensual," he said. "There were harassing elements. She tried to break it off, and that was not well received."

Admiral Tindal is married, Admiral Pease said.

The episode is the latest in a string of embarrassing incidents that have rocked the navy just as senior officials believed they were putting the 1991 Tailhook sexual harassment scandal behind them.

The incidents raised such alarm that last month the navy's top admiral, Jeremy M. Borda, ordered all navy personnel to suspend operations for one day to figure out how to keep themselves and colleagues out of trouble.



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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

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Universal Human Rights

Sunday was International Human Rights Day, so designated to remind an often uncaring world that there is a Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was adopted 47 years ago by the United Nations to establish some clear standards for the treatment of citizens by their governments. There has been progress on human rights in recent years. The demise of the Soviet Union and its empire ended a terrible tyranny for millions of people, as did the end of apartheid in South Africa and the advance of democracy in Latin America and Korea. But too many governments retain repressive practices.

The path ahead is blocked in many Asian countries by stubborn government opposition. The complaint goes like this: It is fine for advanced nations like the United States to talk about rights like the rule of law and protection of dissent, but we are addressing the more basic needs of people for food and shelter, medical care and schooling. Besides, say countries like China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore, the Universal Declaration is essentially a Western document, rooted in values that are alien to the East.

These objections have a plausible ring, but they are misguided. The first argument assumes a necessary conflict between respect for human rights and imperatives of development. It is patronizing, indeed almost insulting to Asians and others, to suggest that citizens in developing countries should not have the same rights as those in more developed lands.

The new attack coincides with a growing reluctance among richer nations to impose sanctions that might limit their access to lucrative markets. Freer markets do help out poorer societies, as in South Korea. But experience shows that outside pressure is a vital catalyst, and that sanctions can assist the demo-

cratic process, as in South Africa. Nor is there real weight to the argument that the United Nations declaration, with its emphasis on rule of law and political accountability, somehow conflicts with Asian value systems. The point is effectively made by Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese human rights activist, who cites the Buddhist view of kingship: "The Ten Duties of Kings are liberality, morality, self-sacrifice, integrity, kindness, austerity, non-anger, nonviolence, forbearance and non-opposition to the will of the people."

Different cultures nurture different political values, but over the centuries the world has evolved international codes that express universal aspirations. Although slavery is viewed as legitimate in some cultures, and some theocracies believe that those they label as heretics should be slain for writing books, the world is surely not wrong to prohibit slavery and condemn assassination crimes.

China's views on human rights are most paradoxical. Here is a Communist society that preaches the universal validity of Marxist principles, yet hypocritically rejects principles intended to protect workers from being exploited in prison camps and to uphold the rights of homegrown dissenters like Wei Jingsheng.

There were brighter developments in 1995. Countries as different as Honduras and Chile, Ethiopia and South Africa, conducted judicial proceedings against military and security officers accused of human rights crimes.

Let it be affirmed again that some truths are globally self-evident, and that a society deserves to be judged by its treatment of those least able to defend themselves, and by the degree to which rulers govern by consent and persuasion, rather than by terror.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

On the 366th Day

It is laughable to find some of President Bill Clinton's Bosnia critics complaining that he has no "exit strategy." The more salient criticism is that he has too much of an exit strategy. In making a commitment to pull American ground forces out in 12 months, he embraced a constraint that may work against accomplishment of the American mission.

It is not simply that such a deadline beckons troublemakers to lie low for a year and leap up on the 366th day. It is that if progress toward peace lags, the United States and its allies will come under heavy pressure simply to leave a mess. Zbigniew Brzezinski speaks for many when he warns that, given the shortness of the deadline, the much discussed "mission creep" may be less of a concern than "mission bug-out."

Some suggest that the 12-month limit was drawn to make sure that the intervention would be completed by the American elections. This does scant credit to the readiness of President Clinton, who starts out with low public confidence in his capacities as commander in chief, to take on a demanding project that could be blowing up in his face just as American voters go to the polls.

The deadline was conceived as a minimal period in which the United States could reasonably hope to see Bosnia survive its rescuers' departure. The tasks deemed necessary for success go beyond separating forces into economic revival, the conduct of elections and, crucially, building Serbian arms down and Muslim arms up so as to create a military balance.

By the president's telling, his military advisers and NATO allies assured him that this formidable mission could be accomplished in a year.

There are those who want the president to stretch the deadline and create for himself some space so that a combined Bosnian collapse and American "bug-out" will not be coldly staring him in the eye in a year. But Mr. Clinton has with reason hesitated to convey anything more than that he might show some flexibility. He wishes to deny critics and political rivals an opening to attack either his policy or his personal constancy.

Thus has he denied his policy the extra credibility it might enjoy if the United States were planning to stay on for that 366th day. Given who he is, nonetheless, it could hardly be otherwise. The friends whose support is offered to American policy, like the critics whose support is offered just to American soldiers, are left to do what can be done to bring Bosnia to some degree of peace, stability and order in 12 months.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Tension in Mexico

Question: What do South Korea, Italy and Mexico have in common? Answer: All three are countries moving from authoritarian or one-party regimes to open democracy. In each of the three, the previous regime ran on pervasive corruption that can't stand the kind of scrutiny it is getting under the new system. All three are countries that have become a lot richer during the past generation, and the amounts of money in the corruption cases are startlingly large. But there are also important differences among the three, and among them Mexico is the country to worry about.

South Korea's elected government is pursuing the cleanup with muscle and great self-confidence, jailing two former presidents of the country who represent the earlier era.

The demise of Italy's once dominant Christian Democratic Party a couple of years ago has led to much turmoil, but the basic stability of the country is hardly in doubt. It is reinforced by the strong framework of the European Union.

The United States has tried to extend a similar framework to Mexico with the North American Free Trade Agreement, but it is too recent to have the European Union's solidity. Unlike the EU, it cannot enforce democratic standards. In both Italy and Mexico, political corruption has been augmented by tremendous flows of

drug money and the persistence of highly organized crime. Mexico, less rich than Italy, is less well equipped to fight back.

Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who was president of Mexico until a year ago and is now living abroad almost as a fugitive, faxed a long and vehement letter last week to several news organizations. The denigration that he has suffered in the past year, he wrote, is being led by a cabal of old-guard politicians, including another former president, Luis Echeverria, who bitterly oppose Mr. Salinas's economic reforms and his attempts to move Mexico away from its tradition of top-down politics. Some of those politicians, Mr. Salinas further charged, have ties to the drug dealers. None of that, certainly, is proved. But he is surely right when he says: "Nothing that has happened in Mexico this year is removed from the tremendous power struggle."

In Italy and South Korea, the old regimes are gone forever, and those countries have moved decisively to a new stage of their political lives. But in Mexico the anti-democratic forces are still very much alive and fighting with great energy to regain their perquisites. Mexican democracy will probably win in the end, but it is far from a sure thing. This tremendous quarrel, as Mr. Salinas says, underlies everything else in Mexico's politics.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Start Reforming Saudi Arabia While There Is Time

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — Somehow it just got lost in the headlines, between the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the culmination of the Bosnia peace talks. No one ordered flags lowered to half-staff and there was no saturation coverage on CNN, but the car-bombing of the Saudi-American military office in Riyadh on Nov. 13 deserves more reflection.

Five Americans were killed and some 30 wounded in the incident. It was the most devastating terrorist attack on Americans in the Middle East since the Beirut Marine bombing 12 years ago. If such an attack were to happen in Bosnia, it could jeopardize the whole U.S. operation. So why is it shrugged off in Saudi Arabia?

In part it is because no one knows who did it — although a number of shadowy Islamic groups have claimed responsibility, and Saudi officials have put out a police sketch of one of the suspected car-bomb drivers. In part, though, the silence is because U.S. officials fear drawing attention to anything unusual going on in Saudi Arabia. U.S. interests there are so vital that officials don't want to say anything that might rattle the ruling family or the U.S.-Saudi relationship.

The United States has even withdrawn diplomats from Riyadh who the Saudis felt became too knowledgeable and frank about problems in the kingdom.

(Compounding Washington's challenge in reading Saudi Arabia these days is the fact that the Saudi ambassador to the United States, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, who, when he is engaged, is a brilliant diplomat capable of giving U.S. officials a unique understanding of his country, has spent very little time in Washington since the start of the Clinton administration. He is usually in Saudi Arabia or Colorado.)

It would be wrong to exaggerate the significance of the Riyadh bombing. Saudi Arabia is not on the verge of collapse. The durability of the Saudi state, and the instinct for survival of the ruling al-Saud family, should not be underestimated. But it would be equally wrong to ignore this event, and say that it tells us nothing.

To begin with, U.S. officials believe, from initial FBI investigations, that this attack on the administrative offices of the U.S. team training the Saudi National

Guard — which protects the ruling family — was probably an in-house job. That is, the attack was masterminded by Saudis against Saudis. There is no evidence yet of foreign direction. If that proves to be the case, then clearly some of the domestic opponents of the Saudi ruling family now have the will, the sophistication and the resources to take their opposition to a whole new level.

Another thing this tells us has to do with the peace process. U.S. officials are hoping that Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states will open diplomatic ties with Israel as part of a Syrian-Israeli peace deal. Whether this bombing was perpetrated by radical Islamists or not, the Saudis will assume that it was, and this is going to make them even more reluctant to accept an Israeli embassy in Riyadh any time soon.

This bombing should also draw attention to the fact that 74-year-old King Fahd is ill, and there must be maneuvering behind the scenes over succession. Who knows whether it was connected with this bombing. But successions are never happy times. People get nervous. Funny things happen.

Finally, while Saudi Arabia is not go-

ing to become a democracy tomorrow — and even if it did it would not satisfy the radical Islamists — the long-term stability of the country does depend on the ruling family thinking more seriously about how to broaden its support, curb corruption and give nonviolent critics more outlets for expression. With half the population under the age of 15, with sagging oil prices forcing the government to cut back benefits and jobs, the Saudis might be wise to loosen the steam valves a bit.

That is a conversation Washington should be having with Riyadh. Saudi Arabia today is not in crisis. It is in that gray zone before a crisis. It is in that decade when the aging leadership is hunkered down, living off old habits and assuming that nothing will ever have to change.

This is precisely the time when some gradual, far-reaching reforms can be introduced, without the pressure of mobs or widespread violence, and, if done properly, can actually strengthen the Saudi system. Washington must not squander these years of quiet by keeping its head in the sand. This is the moment to be thinking ahead — the moment before it is too late.

The New York Times.

The Important Thing About Russia's Election Is That It Occurs

By Flora Lewis

MOSCOW — Asked to forecast his party's results in Russia's coming parliamentary elections, a top aide to the Communist Party leader Gennadi Zhuganov quoted Stalin. "What matters is not how people vote, it's who does the counting." And he laughed.

There is deep and widespread skepticism about this country's second free legislative elections, on Dec. 17. Yet they are important because they are being held at all. Earlier this year there were many doubts about that. Now it is considered essential as a dress rehearsal for the presidential election scheduled next June.

And there are doubts about whether the June election will really take place. A current Moscow joke goes, "What will happen if Boris Yeltsin isn't elected the new president next year?" Answer: "Then he'll stay on as the old president." Nobody is quite sure whether he would actually step down if he runs and loses.

Nikita Khrushchev was the first Soviet leader to survive losing power, in an early 1960s coup.

Mikhail Gorbachev was ousted with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, and lives to ponder it. Who knows, Mr. Yeltsin could be the first to accept defeat with grace.

The Communists are set to be the largest party in the next Duma, and with their allies may come near to almost a majority. But it doesn't mean that Russia will be going back to communism.

For many people now, democracy means chaos, crime, economic misery and a humiliated homeland. Confusion, suspicion and a hazy nostalgia for what is remembered as a time without uncertainties are dominant.

Still, things are moving on. A certain market economy has taken hold, although it is still far from free and there is more manipulation of money than real investment. There is a definite generation gap.

Mr. Zhuganov tells his crowded meetings that a third of his supporters are young, and the audience of practically all gray-

heads applauds dutifully. He is old-style, a big, bulky pink-faced man who gives plodding speeches with glowing generalities and attacks on the "democrats who ruined everything." For some, the familiarity is reassuring.

Reports from around this enormous country indicate more public interest in regional and local elections, where reformers with a fair record sometimes have strong support. It doesn't necessarily carry over to national government and more energetic national reform parties. Except for evident general disenchantment, the results will not be clear to read. It will almost certainly be a mistake to take them as any definitive sign of where Russia is going.

Foreign affairs are very far down the list of concerns, and then primarily for what they mean about Russia's identity, Russia's standing in the world, Russia's ability to command serious respect as a once and future great power.

Don't look for geopolitical log-

ic. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev came back from talks in Brussels with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry announcing triumph. He arranged that Russian troops would take part in NATO's Bosnian peacekeeping operation under American, not NATO, command.

If the situation were reversed, Americans would doubtless feel less put down sending a small contingent abroad under international command than under Russian command. One Moscow analyst tried to explain. If it's Russian to American, that still recognizes a sort of equality. It used to be NATO to Warsaw Pact, but there isn't any more Pact, so it's just NATO, that is unacceptably one-sided.

In other words, the wave of nationalism which has swept all across the political spectrum is emotional, psychological, not strategic. The "national interest" is ardently upheld, but it is negatively defined, in terms of what is not tolerable, what causes pain, not in terms of goals and aspirations.

Although the strident nation-

alists argue that the United States is plotting to keep Russia weak and run the world, NATO is seen as the enemy rather than America. "We want to get on with America, we know we need it," said another analyst.

So there are bound to be frictions ahead as the Russians concentrate on sorting out their own hopes and fears, reshaping the myths and convictions they feel they need to keep the nation together. The contradictions cannot be ignored, nor should they be overblown. It's a hard time, and cool reason doesn't help much.

A veteran Russian diplomat chided with warm approval the speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament, "a Communist," he said pointedly. "The words he liked were, 'He who doesn't regret the end of the Soviet Union has no heart, he who wants to restore it has no brains.'"

Elections matter because there is no other way to democracy, but the coming ones are just another small step. At least it is being taken. Then on to the next one.

© Flora Lewis.

For American Foreign Policy, Multilateralism Is the Only Option

By Stephen S. Rosenfeld

WASHINGTON — The handsome and much needed support that Bill Clinton is getting from Bob Dole on Bosnia moves the American foreign policy debate to the key tension still tugging at Washington's gathering bipartisan consensus.

It is whether, on the limbus issue of how to prepare Bosnia for a U.S. departure a year hence, the United States alone or NATO as an alliance should undertake the crucial business of establishing a military balance by arming and training the Bosnian Muslims.

To put it in a larger framework: Should America take a "unilateralist" approach to heavy international duty, intervening, when it does, strictly on its own terms? Or should it adopt a "multilateralist" approach, bargaining out a common policy with its allies?

With isolationism a nagging

but so far minority presence, this difference among internationalists — among Republicans as well as between Democrats and Republicans — marks the new fault line in American foreign policy in the '90s.

Senate Majority Leader Dole, front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, is more a straddler than an incorrigible unilateralist. But here he favors having the United States arm the Bosnians on its own. This is consistent with his oft-stated faith in American leadership and freedom of action and his suspicion of "subcontracting American foreign policy and subordinating American sovereignty" to "utopian" multilateral bodies.

President Clinton in Dayton evidently assured the Bosnians (al-

though not in the text of the agreement) that they would not be left in the lurch. He quickly dispatched a mission to start assessing Bosnia's possible military needs. But if a Muslim buildup is finally required to compensate for a lagging Serb buildup, Mr. Clinton wants the task picked up by others, perhaps first Turkey, a NATO ally and secular Muslim state.

Who is right? Almost certainly the president. His own earlier unilateral embrace of multilateralism was careless, and he is still paying a political and diplomatic price. He can hardly depict Mr. Dole any longer as an incipient neo-isolationist. But on the prickly and portentous matter of who will arm Bosnia, his bid to have NATO do it would spare Washington the embarrassment of vis-

ibly and singly strengthening one side while claiming to be impartial and neutral. It would blunt the risk of leading Americans into an open-ended commitment to Bosnia all by themselves.

These disadvantages are noted, by the way, not just by the administration but by critics of the right who don't want the United States to shoulder any extra responsibilities in Bosnia. Mr. Dole has yet to effectively counter their claims.

On the broader canvas, the merits similarly favor a careful multilateral approach. Not that unilateralism and multilateralism are entirely at odds. As George Bush showed in the Gulf war, the best way to bring in allies may be to convince them that the mission is important enough for Americans to launch on their own.

Still, argues Robert Blackwill, late of the Bush administration, there is not one single serious international challenge that America can solve largely by itself.

"Not combating nuclear proliferation; not fostering a global trading regime based on free market principles; not providing a stable framework for international currency transactions; not establishing normal relations between Israel and its neighbors; not contesting Iraqi and Iranian regional ambitions; not combating Islamic extremism; not dealing with emerging Chinese strength; not slowing the drug trade; not confronting terrorism; not fighting international crime; and not even handling the consequences of an unstable Mexico."

"In short, the United States has

no realistic unilateralist options that will effectively promote its national interests. It needs its alliance partners (some of which also have unilateralist urges) as much as they need the United States. Both sides have to work much harder than ever before to harmonize their policies. And in the post-Cold War world, Washington will have to compromise more often."

"If America accepts this commanding multilateralist reality and conducts its external relations with competence, consistency and credibility, the objective elements of U.S. political, economic and military power will ensure that even in the new conditions Washington will lead the West, will often get its way, because there is no other plausible candidate for this singularly influential role."

"If it does not, constant talk in the United States of the importance of American leadership abroad will be empty political rhetoric, and the world will be a much more dangerous place."

Leadership with an asterisk — this may be a hard lesson to learn, or to state in a presidential campaign, but it seems to me an essential one.

The Washington Post.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

You Don't Get Far Without Bridges

By Todd Gitlin

NEW YORK — There are some truths so obvious that they paradoxically fall through the cracks: In a democratic society, minorities need majority support. Politics in a pluralistic society depends on alliance-making, and that's not accomplished by celebrating membership in a group — any group.

No community, no ethnicity is an island. The jobs, housing, schools and health care that blacks and any other Americans need cannot be provided by one group alone.

Given the proposed Republican cuts, then, where are the million parents marching in protest? True, in recent weeks and months we have seen scattered protests against hospital closures and other savageries. Many of these demonstrations crossed race lines, yet they are exceptional glimmers.

The spirit of the Million Man March is more frequently taken to prove the virtues of self-reliance. Indeed, most social movements in recent years invoke the special interests of feminists, gays, blacks and other blocs. Identity, so the argument goes, is the only firm basis of political commitment.

You think what you are, and who you are is stamped on your skin from birth. Allegiances that cross the categories of birth are as thin as crepe paper rainbows.

But advocates of identity politics claim to do more than satisfy the soul and defend embattled communities. They want to be practical. They maintain that minorities add up, or will

shortly add up, to a majority. Miscalculations run rife. According to a recent survey sponsored by The Washington Post, the Kaiser Family Foundation and Harvard University, white and black Americans alike drastically overestimate the size of minority populations, doubling the actual percentage of blacks.

Miscalculations of strength lead to a cavalier attitude about the need to compose electoral majorities.

The gerrymandering of a handful of congressional districts in the South to ensure greater black representation had the effect of leaving the rest of the South to white conservatives who had no need to build political bridges. Now, in the wake of the Republican sweep of Congress, at least two of those black districts are being invalidated, leaving Southern blacks and the Black Congressional Caucus with less clout than ever.

The Democrats, once the party that drew its strength from racial and ethnic bridge-building, have been fractured by their pursuit of identity politics. Meanwhile, Republicans were putting together electoral majorities in part by targeting ethnic, religious and income groups that could be named against minorities.

Throughout, what is hypocritically called the left sits on the margins, imagining that there is such a thing as the Rainbow Coalition.

For minorities, it is absurdly

shortsighted to cast all white men as a rival interest group. This caters to Newt Gingrich, eager to arouse and collect the anxious whites, to convince the salesclerk that he has more in common with the CEO than he does with the working poor.

Racial obsession is the national albatross. Americans think race, act race, march race, celebrate race, fear race.

Despite more cross-racial socialization than anyone acknowledges, integration is the goal that dare not speak its name. Separatism thrives when the prospects for integrated progress look poor, and then takes on a life of its own.

It becomes hard to recall that race, gender and ethnicity have not always been decisive barriers to cooperation in common cause. The integrated civil rights movement? Ancient history.

Even today, the irony of the fight over affirmative action is that the consequences are exaggerated by advocates and opponents alike. When proposed in the late '60s, affirmative action was one of a package of reforms — anti-discrimination, job creation and so forth — that together were to combat the consequences of slavery and white supremacy. Now, with other reforms largely dismantled, affirmative action, even where defensible, is a symbolic knife, dividing people who ought to be seeking a common interest.

How long will we hang separately before the insecure majority decides to hang together?

Los Angeles Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Envoy Challenged

NEW YORK — Mr. William E. Barrett, Republican representative from Massachusetts, offered a resolution in Congress today (Dec. 10) for the impeachment of Ambassador Bayard for his recent utterances reflecting upon the intelligence and integrity of the American people and the American Congress at his speech in Edinburgh. Addressing the House in a brief and forceful way, Mr. Barrett drew a parallel between the case of Mr. Bayard and Martin Van Buren, who as Secretary of State gave secret instructions to our Minister in Great Britain to do deal with the Foreign Office as to increase the prestige of his party at home.

who was one of the principal figures to drawing up the Covenant of the League of Nations, has continued to manifest his activities in the interests of peace as president of the Council of the League.

1945: Cloaked Assets

ZURICH — Switzerland's hope of effecting an agreement with the United States to unfreeze 1.5 to 2 billion dollars in Swiss accounts and properties in the United States suffered a setback. Swiss bankers were informed that the United States has notified their government that negotiations to release these assets on certifications are considered broken off. The move in constantly deteriorating Swiss-American relations, stems from the Allied quest for cloaked German assets. The dispute involves German assets in Switzerland, as well as those suspected to be cloaked under false names or in Swiss outposts accounts with American banking and brokerage accounts.

1920: Peace Prizes

CHRISTIANA — The Nobel Peace Prizes for 1919 and 1920 have been awarded to President Wilson and M. Léon Bourgeois respectively. M. Léon Bourgeois

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INTERNATIONAL

LANGUAGE

Peres May Seek Formal Alliance With the U.S.

Israel Interested in Added Security in the Event of a Deal on Golan

By Serge Schmemmann
New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — After a whirlwind first month in office, Prime Minister Shimon Peres went to the United States Sunday to rally American Jews and to meet President Bill Clinton to explore new avenues toward peace with Syria.

Beforehand, Mr. Peres conferred with leaders of Jordan, Egypt and the Palestinians to underscore that he was traveling to Washington with the support of those Arabs with

whom Israel has made peace.

Almost from the day he took office on the death of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last month, Mr. Peres has declared that peace with Syria is his overriding priority. He has also made clear that he considers the previous approach, debating security issues on an ambassadorial level with some mediation by the United States, to be a dead end.

On his return flight from Cairo on Thursday, Mr. Peres said he was not going to Washington with a specific strategy,

but to discuss various approaches. "I am not coming with conditions—I am coming with ideas," he said. "My major purpose is to discuss the next step in the peace process, the possibilities of overcoming disagreements between Syria and ourselves."

Syria's reaction to Mr. Peres's efforts has been one of cautious curiosity. This past week, the chief American negotiator in the Middle East, Dennis B. Ross, held meetings with the Syrian president, Hafez Assad, and the State Department

announced that Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher would visit Jerusalem and Damascus soon after Mr. Peres's trip.

In his visits to Jordan and Egypt, Mr. Peres lined up the support of King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak. In Egypt, Mr. Peres removed a major source of friction by agreeing to investigate the treatment of prisoners by both sides in past Mideast wars.

The issue arose last summer, when a retired Israeli general acknowledged that he had killed 49 Egyptian prisoners in the 1956 war in Sinai, and said that at the time, Mr. Rabin refused to order an inquiry, arguing that this would create a storm of mutual recriminations.

The matter continued to fester in Egypt, and Mr. Peres announced that he was appointing a reserve army general, Shlomo Lahat, who is also a former mayor of Tel Aviv, to head the investigation.

President Mubarak, for his part, greeted Mr. Peres with full honors, and expressed confidence that talks with Syria would begin and that "this would be the end of the problem

of the Middle East and the war in this part of the world."

On his trip to Washington, Mr. Peres is expected to discuss with President Clinton the possibility of a formal alliance with the United States. This idea has been raised in the past, but Israel has generally felt that it must retain full flexibility in its defense, and not be bound by a formal pact.

The question of an alliance has been revived as a way of guaranteeing Israel's security in the north if it withdraws from all or part of the Golan Heights. The heights overlook northern Israel and the southern Syrian plains, and the major issue for Israel in any deal on the Golan would be to find alternate means of assuring its security.

In a meeting on Friday with Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, Mr. Peres also sought to eliminate some points of discord, primarily by promising to substantially increase the number of work permits issued to Arabs from the Gaza Strip. Restrictions on the number of workers allowed into Israel have been the highest complaint from the Gazans, most of whom depend on jobs in Israel

Iran-Jordan Tension Rising

Agence France-Press

AMMAN — Jordan and Iran have expelled each other's diplomats in fit-for-far moves signaling a growing tension between the two countries over the Arab-Israeli peace process.

Jordan on Saturday ordered the first secretary of the Iranian Embassy to leave the country for allegedly trying to incite an attack on Israeli tourists.

Iran replied by giving a Jordanian diplomat, Ahmad Faisal Sabagh, a week to leave the country on charges of "activities incompatible

with his status as a diplomat," the official Iranian news agency reported.

It was the first time Jordan had declared an Iranian diplomat in Amman as persona non grata, and it was seen as a sign of the growing rift between the two over the peace process.

Tension rose when the Iranian press stepped up its attacks on Jordan after King Hussein attended the funeral of Yitzhak Rabin, a diplomat in Amman said. At the funeral King Hussein described the assassinated Israeli prime minister as a "friend and a brother."

Galileo Transmits First Data

Reuters

LOS ANGELES — NASA scientists on Sunday received the first data from the space probe Galileo — a message beamed over 2.3 billion miles from Jupiter.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory reported that the transmission began arriving early Sunday morning.

The radio message from Galileo, the space vessel that traveled for six years before reaching its current orbit around Jupiter, is expected to provide scientists with their first measurements of the huge planet's atmosphere, composition, climate and weather patterns.

The data being relayed by Galileo were received from its 746-pound probe as it plunged into Jupiter's swirling, gaseous mass on Thursday.

While scientists were cheered by the successful reception of data, they will not know the quality of the information until the Galileo team analyzes it.

Earlier, members of the team cautioned that transmission would be on a "best effort" basis because the sun is currently between Earth and Jupiter and is likely to cause radio interference.

Galileo's probe gathered its data as it hurtled through clouds of water, helium, oxygen and nitrogen and endured Jupiter's winds of 200 miles an hour and violent lightning storms.

The probe's communication with Galileo cut off after 75 minutes, after which scientists say it was probably crushed and vaporized by the extreme pressure and high temperatures in Jupiter's upper atmosphere.

The transmission, which will consist of the first 43 minutes of the 75-minute transmission from the probe to its mother ship, will continue until Wednesday. It will be repeated twice more in January when Earth and Jupiter will no longer be blocked by the sun.



COMMUNIST SUPPORT — Fidel Castro being aided by General Secretary Do Muoi and a soldier at ceremonies Sunday in Hanoi. The Cuban visited China and Vietnam to see their adoptions to market economies.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Doomsday Clock Set Closer to Zero Hour

Saying the threat of nuclear apocalypse did not disappear with the end of the Cold War, the keepers of the Doomsday Clock have moved it three minutes closer to midnight.

"While we are back from the brink, we are not out of the woods," said Leonard Rieiser, chairman of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. "The world is still a very dangerous place."

He reset the clock to 14 minutes before the hour that symbolizes nuclear apoca-

lypse, citing growing world tension, deteriorating safeguards of nuclear stockpiles and the threat of nuclear terrorism.

The Doomsday Clock, introduced in 1947, has been reset 16 times to reflect world events. The closest it has been to nuclear midnight was 1953, when it was moved to within two minutes in response to the first hydrogen bomb explosion by the United States.

The clock was last changed in 1991, when it was moved back to 17 minutes before midnight in a wave of post-Cold War optimism.

The bulletin, established by scientists of the Manhattan Project that produced the first atomic bomb, is published by the Educational Foundation for Nuclear Science.

The bronze, 18-inch (half-

meter) clock hangs in the group's headquarters on the University of Chicago campus, and a likeness appears on the publication's cover.

Short Takes

Money machines may soon cost more money — perhaps from 25 cents to \$2.50 per transaction. Most U.S. banks will be able to begin imposing fees at automated teller machines outside a customer's home bank system beginning in April. Visa International, the credit card group that operates most of the 100,000 American cash machines, dropped its ban on surcharges last month after lobbying by banks. They contend that it is too expensive to run ATMs in tourist areas where they may not have branches.

Kan Donney is charged with murdering his estranged wife Nina. The California lawyer and Santa Clara University law school official says he accidentally stabbed her when he fell on her while carrying a knife. He says the 29 wounds, including four deep slashes, were made when she panicked and they struggled.

A baby-faced New York murder suspect who said he was 15, too young to face the death penalty, is at least 20, according to a doctor who X-rayed his joints. The finding means Fu Xin Chen could be executed if convicted of conspiracy to kidnap, torture and murder a Chinese garment worker. Prosecutors immediately moved him from a juvenile center to a federal jail.

International Herald Tribune

BOOKS

WHAT THEY'RE READING

PERFECT VILLAINS, IMPERFECT HEROES: Robert E. Kennedy's War Against Organized Crime

By Ronald Goldfarb. 357 pages. \$26. Random House.

Reviewed by Robert Sherrill

RONALD GOLDFARB, a Washington lawyer, literary agent and filmmaker, says he set out to write a book only about Attorney General Robert Kennedy's dramatic revival of the Justice Department's organized-crime division. He says he did not intend to include a theory about the Kennedy assassinations — who did them and why.

But in fact most of "Perfect Villains, Imperfect Heroes" seems constructed for the very purpose of supporting an assassination theory, which Goldfarb gives us at the end. The theory is a variation on the Faust legend: John and Robert Kennedy took favors from the Devil, who expected their souls in return. They rejected the deal, so he killed them.

In more worldly terms, the theory goes like this: Old man Joe Kennedy, while building the family fortune by rum-running during Prohibition, had worked closely with the mob and owed it plenty of favors. He and son Jack were also indebted to the mob for manipulating enough votes (especially in Illinois, a crucial state) and contributing enough money (especially in West Virginia) to squeeze Jack into the White House. Once there, Jack — or the smart alecks at CIA, with his approval — called on the mob to try to "get" Fidel Castro. It's likely that Bobby, who really hated the Cuban revolution, may have had some dealings along those lines, too. Anyway, the top executives of organized crime understandably thought the Kennedys were in their debt.

And the mobsters were riled to murderous rage, feeling totally betrayed, when President Kennedy appointed brother Bobby to be attorney general and Bobby transformed the moribund Organized Crime and Racketeering Section into an army of belligerent, seemingly relentless crime fighters.

Goldfarb, fresh out of Yale Law School, was a middle-rank officer in that army. He had led a particularly sticky prosecution in Newport, Kentucky, one of the most corrupt little cities in the United States. Roughly one-fourth of the book is devoted to the Newport episode. I would have welcomed a bit less. But it does give him a chance, as an insider, to show the department's philosophy and tactics.

The spirited effectiveness of Robert Kennedy's crusade surprised even his friends, seeing as how he (1) didn't want the job of attorney general; (2) had never been in a courtroom as a trial lawyer; and (3) could claim, as

• Daniel M. Tellep, chairman and chief executive officer of Lockheed Martin Corp., is reading "Stars in Their Courses: The Gettysburg Campaign" by Shelby Foote.

"I was impressed with the chronicle of the battle and especially the behind-the-scenes drama and personal stories of courageous soldiers in both armies." (Brian Knowlton, IHT)



his experience in ferreting out mobsters, only his service as

counsel to Senator John McClellan's racketeers committee. What made his time at Justice dramatically unique was that he whipped previously inert agencies — even the FBI — into acknowledging the existence of national crime syndicates and into joining the fight.

Kennedy's anti-crime lawyers preferred to bring down their quarry with heavyweight charges of narcotics trafficking, political corruption, big-time organized gambling and particularly labor racketeering (Kennedy's running feud with the Teamster boss, Jimmy Hoffa, was legendary). But if they couldn't dig deep enough for those charges, they would circle around and nip them from behind for such relatively rinky-dink crimes as making false statements on home improve-

ment loans or on telephone-creator license applications.

Did Kennedy and his colleagues sometimes stretch the net so far as to violate civil liberties? Some critics thought so. In his landmark study, "Kennedy Justice," which came out 25 years ago, Victor Navasky gave these critics far more room to speak than does Goldfarb. But Goldfarb does admit "we were excessive at times." And, yes, occasionally the process by which his "imperfect heroes" administered justice was "at least in hindsight subject to serious questioning." But he would have us remember that many, if not most, of those they went after were "perfectly villainous."

Robert Sherrill, the author of "The Last Kennedy" and a correspondent for the Nation, wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

MIDWAY through the final session of the Reisinger Board-a-Match Team Championship, Lynn Deas, Juanita Chambers, Ralph Cohen and Mike Cappelletti seemed headed for victory. But one disastrous round wiped out their lead, and with one deal remaining, they were fractionally behind Nick Nickell and his world championship team.

Cappelletti and Cohen saved in five hearts against four spades. Deas played the hand from the North position, and East led the singleton club. West falsecarded with the queen, and North won with the ace. She would have succeeded by drawing three rounds of trumps, but she did not know the club jack was well placed. She gave up a heart to West, who could have given his partner a club ruff with the chance of an underlead of the diamond ace to set up a second, decisive ruff.

But West shifted to a trump. She gave up a diamond to West, who finally tried a club lead. North would still have survived by finessing, but she put up for down one-losing the board.

In a different match, Bob Wolff and Bob Hamman, for the Nickell team, also saved in

five hearts as East-West. Their team's North-South pair were doubled in four spades after the complex auction shown, starting with a Multi two diamonds, showing a weak-two bid in a major suit. The two-heart response showed a desire to play in that contract, and no higher, if South held hearts. West led a top heart and shifted to a diamond. South ruffed the second diamond lead, ruffed a heart, and returned to his hand with a trump to ruff his last heart. He then led the club ten, planning to finesse, and the contract was safe. West had to cover, and did, to prevent an overtrick.

NORTH			
♠ K Q 2			
♥ J			
♦ 10 8 7 2			
♣ A K 8 2			
WEST			
♠ 5			
♥ A K 8 2			
♦ K 9 5 4			
♣ Q J 7 3			
EAST			
♠ 8 6 3			
♥ 10 7 6 4 3			
♦ A Q 8 3			
♣ 4			
SOUTH (D)			
♠ A J 10 7 4			
♥ Q 9 5			
♦ 7 6 4			
♣ 10 9 5 5			

Neither side was vulnerable. The bidding: South West North East
2♦ Pass Pass Pass
2♠ Pass Pass Pass
2♥ Pass Pass Pass
West led the heart king.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Applaud
- 8 "Just a—" ("Hold on!")
- 9 Bodog's owner
- 14 Latvia's capital
- 15 Undertake
- 16 Made over
- 17 Strict rulership
- 18 Experts
- 19 Check-out line assistants
- 21 H.M.O. employees
- 22 Building designer I.M.
- 23 Dampened
- 25 Filmdom's Bruce or Laura

DOWN

- 2 Builders of Stonehenge, some say
- 3 Damage
- 10 Mob scene
- 11 Dug up, as an artifact
- 12 Leisure suit
- 13 Composer
- 14 Ones at hand
- 15 Midweek
- 16 Facilitate
- 17 Important point
- 18 "Put more!"
- 19 Get-out-of-jail money
- 20 Close up again



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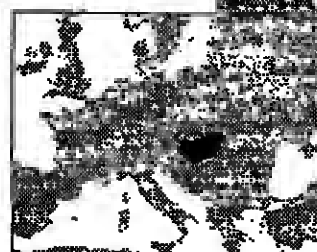
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PRIVATIZATION

Hungary's widespread efforts to privatize its industries, including the key sectors of telecoms and energy, have already attracted massive foreign investment.



in

HUNGARY

PROGRAM SHIFTS INTO HIGH GEAR WITH EXTENSIVE FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Having a single agency in charge of the privatization process is stepping up the pace of deal-making.

In just a few days in late November this year, Allami Privatizációs és Vagyongkezelő Rt. (APV, Hungary's privatization agency), secured \$610 million in capital investment from non-Hungarian companies. Of that total, \$461 million came in winning bids for the country's five gas distributors, with the rest accruing from a private placement of shares in MOL, the nation's petroleum products processor and retailer.

That \$610 million was 35 percent above APV's forecast figure, and represents 20 percent of all "hard currency" (meaning investment from the West) revenue received by Hungary's privatization program since 1990. The total is equivalent to the Czech Republic's entire 1994 foreign-direct-investment total, and "is more than the total foreign investment Romania has received since 1990," according to the Budapest Business Journal.

\$8 billion in investment
Hungary has so far received a total of \$8 billion in foreign direct investment since 1990, making it the number one foreign direct investment target in Central and Eastern Europe. Of this total, around \$3 billion has been invested in privatization deals. The sales coincided with reports of progress being made on the privatizations of three other major corporations: MATAV, the national telecom company; Budapest Bank, the blue-chip commercial bank; and MVM, the country's electricity-supply authority.

If all these deals go through, as planned over the next few months, the Hungarian government will surpass its target goal for privatization revenue during 1995-1996 by a formidable 60 percent. According to the OECD, the private sector will account for 70 percent of Hungary's total economic output this year if all pending privatization goes through as planned.

APV's senior executives are understandably delighted at the results of the first major sales campaign undertaken since the agency's start-up in mid-June this year. "I would describe my reaction as being 'gratified,'"

says Viktor Polgár, APV's executive director of communications. "Gratified that our hard, patient work has met with a satisfactory response from the world's business community, gratified that our government's carefully crafted policies have paid off so handsomely." The policies were articulated in the first few months of the regime of Gyula Horn, who was elected prime minister of Hungary in July 1994.

Removing obstacles
"In formulating our privatization policies, we have strived to capitalize upon the achievements and assets of the first four years of privatization, while removing the obstacles blocking further progress," says Tamás Suchman, the country's minister of privatization.

The prime achievement has been that we have truly privatized well over 60 percent of our economy, 96 percent of which was originally in state hands. By "truly," I mean our privatization has effected a large-scale infusion of private-sector capital and managerial and technological expertise into these companies, and not just the transferring of ownership, with which several other countries' programs have contented themselves," Mr. Suchman says. "Another prime achievement has been that this privatization has been accomplished without mass lay-offs, and thus without causing hardship and without damaging our country's strong sense of societal cohesion."

"One of our great assets

has been that the great majority of these privatizations, especially the large-scale ones, have worked out well for their investors," Mr. Polgár comments.

Strategic management
These accomplishments have been achieved primarily by two public-sector institutions, the State Property Agency and the State Holding Company, the latter a rather inadvertent participant in the privatization process.

"The State Holding Company's brief was the management of strategic, public-sector assets," says Mr. Polgár. "It turned out that this entailed the securing of private-sector capital, and that necessitated the company's engaging in privatization on a case-by-case basis."

Also participating in the process were the companies themselves, in the so-called "spontaneous privatization phase," which occurred in the early, unsettled days of the post-revolutionary era. Various types of privatization were employed during this early period: Employee stock ownership programs, "asset leasing," MBOs — Hungary tried them all, with varying success and in various permutations.

By early 1995, this profusion of types of privatization and plurality of agencies, initially productive, "had outlived its time," in Mr. Suchman's words. "The time of eclecticism had come to a natural end. It was time to take what we had learned from our endeavors and experiments and work it into a simple, coherent

form." Along with a new form, the privatization process was given a sweeping new brief. "This government came into office with a firm commitment to giving free rein to the free market," says Mr. Suchman.

"This commitment did not derive from an ideological stance, but rather from our very practical wish to develop our country's economy and infrastructure as quickly and efficiently as possible. And we had observed that this development is best entrusted to the private sector," Mr. Suchman adds.

The result was the decision to privatize the government's holdings in the telecommunications and energy sectors.

Committed to free market
"I don't think there is any one single way our government could more forcibly indicate its commitment to the free market than this step," says Mr. Polgár. "With it, we have gone to the vanguard of the world's privatizers."

"I wasn't surprised at the level of international interest in securing stakes in our natural gas and petroleum processing and supplying companies," says Tibor Ferenci, APV's deputy chief executive in charge of the telecommunications, transport and energy supply sectors. "After all, it's not every day you get a chance to buy into a country's basic sector, and especially ones of such proven profitability," he points out.

"The overwhelming attention accorded to these relatively few high-profile deals notwithstanding, the bulk of APV's work involves day-to-day assistance for the 700 or so companies remaining in our portfolio — revamping their business strategies, product lines and capital stock, so as to make them prime privatization candidates," says István Kocsis, deputy chief executive in charge of mechanical engineering, food processing, electricity supply and other sectors.

"Looked at individually, each of these companies is small. Collectively, they form a very important part of Hungary's economy," Mr. Kocsis concludes. ■

AN UPDATE ON THE PROCESS

A checklist of privatization arrangements completed or in progress shows that much has been accomplished.

What has been privatized so far?
Since January 1, 1990, some 749 companies have been sold by Hungary's privatization agencies, with investors having taken equity stakes in many of the 700 others remaining in the Allami Privatizációs és Vagyongkezelő Rt. (APV) portfolio.

Several thousand restaurants, grocery stores and other small businesses have been sold to their operators in the so-called "small-scale privatization" process, now basically completed.

In the first 10 months of 1995, APV and its predecessors reached agreements stipulating the sale of some 47 billion forints (\$41 million) in stakes in 160 companies, of which 78 have been completely sold.

One-third of this investment came from non-Hungarian investors; two-thirds was on a cash basis. And within a 10-day period in November this year, APV secured \$610 million in capital investment from non-Hungarian companies.

What has been changed?
On June 16, 1995, Hungary's "Act XXXIX of 1995 on the Sale of State-Owned Entrepreneurial Assets" took effect.

The act set up a new privatization agency, APV, to succeed the State Property Agency and State Holding Company, separate organizations that were formerly responsible for the privatizing and managing of public-sector assets.

The act established simple, straightforward procedures for the sale of state-held companies to private investors. The act also listed the candi-

dates for privatization and set schedules for their sale.

What is in the works?
Tenders for the privatization of Hungary's electricity industry — opened by the APV on December 1, 1995 — resulted in bids from 25 foreign investors: 14 for the country's seven power companies, 10 for the six power suppliers, and one investor bidding for a 24 percent stake in MVM, Hungary's electricity supply corporation. If sales agreements are concluded as quickly as expected, these privatization moves may yield revenues before December 22, 1995. As we went to press, negotiations were reportedly "at an advanced stage" for GE Capital Services to acquire a majority stake in Budapest Bank, one of the country's blue-chip finance houses.

From pharmaceuticals to TV
In November, foreign investors snapped up a 14 percent tranche of shares in Richter Gedeon, a highly successful pharmaceuticals manufacturer. APV still holds a 43.6 percent stake in the company.

MagyarCom, the consortium comprised of Ameritech and Deutsche Telekom, already owns 30 percent of the company.

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WRITER: Terry Swartzberg, a freelance business writer based in Munich.
PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Bill Mahler

MATAV, Hungary's telecommunications corporation. The consortium is now negotiating to acquire a further, large-sized tranche of the corporation's shares, with the government reportedly planning on retaining a 25 percent-plus-one share stake.

The privatization of some 150 to 200 small and medium-sized companies — primarily those with capital stock of less than 600 million forints (\$4.4 million) and with less than 500 employees — will be carried out via the so-called "simplified privatization" process, a privatization by tender system, over the next two years. In this process, bidding is open to all. Bidding amounts have to be above a pre-set minimum and are on a cash-only basis. The highest bid wins. Transfer of ownership is effected forthwith.

On the block
Now up for tender: 73 companies active in the food-processing, building contracting and supply, trading, agricultural, precision mechanics, wood processing, leather goods and mechanical industry sectors. Closing date for bids is December 29, 1995.

Next in line: Some 70 to 80 companies, to be put up for tender by the end of December 1995, with the closing date of March 31, 1996.

According to the country's privatization law, the Hungarian government will retain majority ownership in 134 corporations. These primarily provide such "public goods" as bus service in rural areas, the conservation of forests, and postal services. The government has also granted itself a "golden share" in a number of other companies. ■

Leading Hungary's privatization initiatives are (clockwise from top left) Gyula Horn, Hungary's prime minister; Tamás Suchman, the country's minister of privatization; and Imre Szokai, chairman of the executive board of APV, Hungary's privatization agency.



CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Dec. 8. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
107	Germany	6%	02/29/98	103.900	5.770
108	Germany	6%	12/02/98	106.800	6.400
111	Germany	5%	11/20/97	102.310	5.130
114	Treasury	5%	01/14/99	101.783	4.910
116	Germany	6%	02/29/97	103.020	6.110
122	EIB	6%	11/06/02	102.070	6.000
129	Germany	7%	01/20/00	108.450	6.990
131	Germany	6%	08/14/98	105.990	6.070
132	Germany	3.94%	08/20/94	99.140	5.977
141	Germany	6%	02/29/96	100.816	6.550
143	Germany	5%	08/29/97	102.930	5.990
145	Germany	5%	02/25/98	102.545	5.700
153	Germany	8%	06/29/96	101.100	8.240
157	Treasury	5%	12/17/98	101.820	4.910
162	Germany	8%	03/29/96	101.800	8.400
163	Germany	5%	02/28/99	103.530	5.520
171	Germany	7%	02/21/00	110.267	7.030
177	Bremer LB	5%	12/29/98	101.500	4.920
181	World Bank	7%	04/01/98	104.150	6.700
182	Germany	5%	02/29/97	101.100	5.630
204	Germany	6%	02/29/98	104.275	5.990
210	World Bank	5%	11/10/03	100.190	5.800
213	Creditanstalt	5%	01/14/04	99.890	5.900
224	Germany	8%	01/22/96	100.430	8.700
226	Germany	8%	01/22/96	100.500	8.830
227	World Bank	6%	09/27/02	102.170	5.990

Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
183	Austria	6%	06/29/95	102.800	6.490
211	Austria	6%	02/14/00	106.300	6.590

Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
1	Germany	6%	05/12/05	105.6175	6.510
2	Germany	6%	01/14/05	103.2367	6.300
3	Germany	6%	05/02/05	104.5600	6.290
4	Germany	5%	05/15/00	103.6425	6.670
5	Germany	6%	02/29/00	106.0333	6.130
6	Germany	6%	09/20/01	113.3800	7.280
7	Treasury	7%	09/09/04	109.5800	6.640
8	Germany	6%	01/04/04	112.8200	6.590
9	Treasury	6%	01/29/03	107.3000	6.490
10	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
11	Treasury	6%	01/04/04	112.8200	6.590
12	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
13	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
14	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
15	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
16	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
17	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
18	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
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56	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
57	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
58	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
59	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
60	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
61	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
62	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
63	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
64	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
65	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
66	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
67	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
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70	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
71	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
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73	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
74	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
75	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
76	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
77	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
78	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
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96	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
97	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
98	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
99	Treasury	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120
100	Germany	6%	06/22/02	112.4220	7.120

Dutch Guilder

Rnk	Name	Cpn	Maturity	Price	Yield
36	Netherlands	6%	07/15/98	104.5000	5.900
40	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
41	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
42	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
43	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
44	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
45	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
46	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
47	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
48	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
49	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
50	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
51	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
52	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
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98	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
99	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400
100	Netherlands	6%	01/15/00	104.7200	6.400

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ECU			
45	France OAT	6	04/25/04
95	France BTAN	5	03/16/97
90	France OAT	7½	04/25/05
115	France OAT	8½	04/25/22
120	UK T-note	5¼	01/21/97
128	France BTAN	7½	03/16/97
148	France OAT	6¼	04/25/05
151	France OAT	9½	04/25/00
156	ELB	8	01/24/01
165	France BTAN	7¼	03/16/96
185	France OAT	8	04/25/03
187	Italy	5½%	07/31/98
193	Britain	9½	02/21/00
206	UK T-note	8	01/27/98
230	France OAT	10	02/26/01
233	UK T-bills	zero	05/16/96

Close of trading Friday, Dec. 8.

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Overseas: Too Far for Some Investors

By Robert Bryce
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Steve Lorenzen took his first trip abroad in 1957, when his parents drove the family to Mexico City for a vacation. Since then, Mr. Lorenzen, now 49, has returned to Mexico dozens of times, and has visited Africa, Europe and Central America.

In fact, foreign lands have become for him a field of study. An economist at the Texas Department of Human Services, he has done research on how people eke out a living in Mexican slums.

So it is no surprise that Mr. Lorenzen and his wife, Cathy, 43, a data manager, have many foreign investments.

The couple, who live in Austin, Texas, have accounts in 17 mutual funds, nine of them focusing on international equities. Of the \$115,500 they have invested, \$54,400 is in foreign stock funds.

But David Diesslin, a fee-only certified financial planner at Diesslin & Associates in Fort Worth, Texas, warns the Lorenzens that while scholarly interests are fine, putting lots of assets abroad makes for a lopsided portfolio, a warning that applies to many Americans with a fondness for international investments.

"You may be taking more risk than you realize," he said, saying that with foreign stocks "not only do you have market risk,

but you have currency risk," as well.

Oddly enough, it was a major loss that helped draw the couple's money abroad. "A year or so ago, I made a bet that the international markets would do better than they have," Mr. Lorenzen said. "So I shifted a substantial share of my assets into international funds."

But the reality did not cooperate. According to the Morgan Stanley Europe, Australasia and Far East index, foreign stocks have risen 16.83 percent this year through Nov. 30, while the Standard & Poor's 500 has gained 34.98 percent.

Of course, the wisdom of taking risks depends on investors' income, expenses, time and other factors. But a look at the Lorenzens suggests that by these measures their investing may be too chancy.

For example, their combined annual income of \$95,000 is offset by substantial expenses. Their monthly mortgage payment is \$1,250, and they spend \$500 a month for expenses for their 22-year-old son, Kurt, a physics student at the University of Texas. Other monthly expenses include about \$300 in car and life insurance payments.

About 80 percent of the couple's assets are in stocks. While longer horizons can lessen investment risks, some of the couple's cash needs may come well before retirement. There may be college costs for their 7-year-old daughter, Kristina, for example.

But \$82,100, the bulk of their \$115,500

in investments, is in retirement accounts such as 401(k)s and IRAs. Their nonretirement money, unfortunately, is where the Lorenzens have some of their riskiest bets, like \$9,000 in the Acorn International fund, and \$4,000 in Harbor International.

Based on this, Mr. Diesslin recommended lowering stocks from 80 percent of the couple's assets to about 65 percent, and raising bonds from 5.2 percent to 25 percent.

Also for safety reasons, he recommended that they hold more stocks in domestic issues. "If we really do balance the budget in the United States, and the dollar has substantial strengthening, gains made overseas could be wiped out," he said.

Mr. Diesslin said that the Lorenzens should also reduce the number of mutual funds they hold, for simplicity's sake, and Mrs. Lorenzen should contribute an additional \$500 to her 401(k), so the couple can retire on an annual income of \$60,000.

After a few days of considering the recommendations, Mrs. Lorenzen decided that \$500 extra in her 401(k) was impractical, but \$200 a month was doable.

Similarly, Mr. Lorenzen planned to begin buying some bond funds.

But one thing will not change for the Lorenzens: their belief in international investing, particularly the emerging markets. "If you ignore those economies," Mr. Lorenzen said, "you are ignoring a growing part of the capitalization of the world."

A History Lesson for Netscape Fanatics

By Edward Wyatt
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Think back to 1969. Technology had just put men on the moon. New methods of storing, retrieving and manipulating vast seas of data in minutes or seconds were changing the business world.

As technology stocks boomed, investors fawned on Telex and Memorex.

Few people believed that any company would overtake the pair, which had an early lead in the new method of data storage, disk drives. Investors scoffed at the notion they had anything to fear from a late entry into the field, a stodgy old company called IBM.

Wall Street professed that Telex or Memorex would be the next International Business Machines Corp., putting Big Blue out of the data storage business.

Reflecting that assurance, Wall Street bid up the price of Telex shares from \$44 in August 1969 to \$142 the following February, and those of Memorex from about \$80 in August 1969 to \$174 in December.

For that history lesson, thank Hersh Cohen, manager of the Smith Barney Appreciation fund, who last week said that the recent rise of Internet-related stocks, such as Netscape, which soared 358 percent since August, and Spyglass, now \$98, up from \$17 in June, reminded him of the moves in Memorex and Telex 26 years ago.

Recently, Netscape has been called the next Microsoft Corp. Goldman Sachs & Co. recently replaced Microsoft with Netscape on the firm's list of recommended stocks, saying rapidly developing Internet technologies would beat Bill Gates.

The reasons for those predictions, today

and 26 years ago, were remarkably similar. In each case, the larger, more established company was entering the market too late and too slowly to capture much business.

Students of history might recall that IBM was able to survive. Telex and Memorex, on the other hand, soon fell as regulators questioned their accounting and disclosure practices and IBM muscled down the price of data storage devices.

Stock prices plummeted, ultimately leading Telex and Memorex into a merger and Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Another bit of history to consider: much of Telex's fall came when the company declared a 5-for-1 stock split, pushing supply back in line with demand.

Spyglass shares will split 2-for-1 on Dec. 20. Netscape shareholders are to vote on a proposed 2-for-1 split on Jan. 23.

The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, December, 11-15

A schedule of this week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Business News.

	Asia-Pacific	Europe	Americas
Expected This Week	New Delhi: ISE '95, international security exhibition, focusing on investment and joint ventures. Dec. 11-14. Bombay: The chief minister of Maharashtra state decides the fate of the canceled Euron power project.	Madrid: EU heads of state meet for twice-yearly summit, focusing on European monetary union and a single currency. Dec. 15-16. Bonn: October factory orders.	Kansas City, Missouri: Resolution Trust Corp. loan auction. Dec. 13-15. Las Vegas: American Gaming Summit casino conference. Dec. 13-15. New York: Consumer Internet '96 conference. Dec. 13-14.
Monday Dec. 11	Kuala Lumpur: Actacorp Holdings Bhd. annual meeting. Sydney: Treasurer Ralph Willis speaks at observance of Citibank's 10th anniversary in Australia.	Basel, Switzerland: Monthly meeting of Group of 10 central-bank governors. Bonn: Chancellor Helmut Kohl meets Prime Minister Lamberto Dini of Italy. Paris: Preliminary November consumer price index.	San Jose, California: Semiconductor Industry Association's monthly book-to-bill ratio for computer chips. Washington: Weekly planting report; outlook for cotton harvest and orange production.
Tuesday Dec. 12	Sydney: Government issues manufacturing price indexes for October. Tokyo: Economic Planning Agency releases November machinery orders; Nishiyu Giken Kogyo Co. and Shimajima Co. list shares over-the-counter.	Bern: Gross domestic product figures for third quarter. Frankfurt: European Monetary Institute monthly meeting. Voorburg, Netherlands: October producer prices.	Ottawa: October new-vehicle sales. Washington: American Petroleum Institute weekly report; November producer price index; second-quarter current account; 1995 corn and soybean harvests; third-quarter trade balance.
Wednesday Dec. 13	Sydney: Westpac Melbourne Institute Index of Consumer Sentiment for December released. Wellington: Government releases November food prices, economic and fiscal update.	London: November employment and retail sales; monthly meeting of chancellor of the Exchequer and governor of Bank of England. Brussels: Demonstration of public service workers.	Mexico City: Foreign reserves. Ottawa: Leading economic indicators. Washington: November consumer price index; retail sales; Department of Energy weekly report on petroleum stocks; mortgage applications.
Thursday Dec. 14	Sydney: Government issues October housing finance figures and home starts for the third quarter. Wellington: Reserve Bank of New Zealand releases half-yearly statement on monetary policy.	Frankfurt: Bundesbank sets M3 money-supply target for 1996. Brussels: Banque Bruxelles Lambert 1996 economic forecast for Belgium. Paris: September current account. Stockholm: Riksbank board meeting.	Ottawa: November consumer prices, October wage settlements. Washington: November industrial production and capacity utilization; October inventories and sales; third-quarter productivity and labor costs.
Friday Dec. 15	Taipei: Central Bank of China report on foreign-exchange reserves. Tokyo: Economic Planning Agency monthly report; Ministry of International Trade & Industry revised industrial production for October.	London: December trends survey from Confederation of British Industry. Madrid: November consumer prices. Zurich: Swiss National Bank semi-annual briefing on monetary policy; 1996 growth and inflation forecasts.	Caracas: International reserves. Houston: Baker Hughes Inc. weekly drilling-rig survey. Washington: Federal Reserve Board weekly report on commercial and industrial loans by U.S. banks.

British 'Giveaway' Becomes a Big Asset

Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — National Grid Group PLC was little more than a giveaway five years ago, when it was handed over by the British government to the dozen regional electricity companies it wanted to sell.

On Monday, the Grid, owner of the country's high-voltage transmission network, will become a publicly traded company worth £5.2 billion (\$7.9 billion) in yet another giveaway — this time to the regional utilities' shareholders.

Based in Coventry, England, the Grid will be so highly valued that it will begin life as a member of the Financial Times Stock Exchange 100 Index, which includes most of Britain's biggest companies.

More than 908 million shares, or 53.7

percent of the Grid, will go to investors of East Midlands Electricity, London Electricity, Midlands Electricity, Northern Electric, Seaboard, South Wales Electricity and Yorkshire Electricity Group.

Southern Electricity, which faces a potential takeover by National Power, also may distribute its 185 million Grid shares to its current shareholders. An additional 598 million Grid shares will be sold by the four other regional electricity companies, which have been taken private.

In trading in a so-called gray market for Grid stock, shares closed Friday at 208.5 pence.

National Grid shares will be under pressure because of a review by the industry regulator that analysts said would result in

a cut in the price tag. The Grid can charge for electricity starting in April 1997.

But the company still has good prospects, analysts said, through further reductions in operating costs, expanded use of new technology and growth from overseas transmission projects and its Energis telecommunications venture.

The Grid's transformation is the latest turn for the British electricity industry, which in 1990 was government owned and regarded as a collection of boring, no-growth utilities.

Since then, the industry has exceeded all expectations for increasing profits and dividends as the companies cut thousands of jobs and brought in new technology to replace their 1950s infrastructure.

Takeover Threats Keep U.K. Utilities Paying Out

Bloomberg Business News

LONDON — Tough price cuts ordered by Britain's electricity regulator are having the desired effect on utility revenues, although takeover pressure in the industry means the companies are keeping dividend payments as healthy as ever.

Five regional utilities will report results this week for the first half of their financial year, during which pretax profit for regional electricity distributors fell about 15 percent, analysts said. They expect the companies to boost dividends by 10 percent.

Two of the regional companies, East Midlands Electricity PLC and Southern Electric PLC, may even reveal plans for special cash dividends in addition to the interim payout, analysts said.

Separately, Scottish Hydro-Electric PLC, a generator and distributor that is not regulated in the same way as the regional companies, is expected to report Thursday that its profits rose because it sold more electricity outside Scotland.

For the regional companies, the fact that revenues and dividends are being cut is opposite to the trend in the rest of the industry, where cash-rich British electricity companies since a spate of takeovers and new price caps were ordered by the regulator.

Results for the six months ended Oct. 1 saw the first since the price caps began April 1. They follow a series of nine takeovers this far for 12 regional electricity companies in England and Wales.

The possibility of takeovers has forced the companies to in-

crease their borrowing and to distribute more of their profits to shareholders, with big dividend increases, one-time cash bonuses and stock buy-backs.

For instance, analysts said

Northern Electric PLC on Tuesday would report a 14.4 percent drop in first-half pretax profit, to £54.3 million (\$83.2 million), but a 7.5 percent rise in the dividend, to 11.67 pence a share.

Junk Bonds Considered For TRW's Odyssey Plan

Bloomberg Business News

NEW YORK — TRW Inc. could seek to raise as much as \$900 million in high-yielding junk bonds in late 1997 or 1998 to help finance its Odyssey satellite communications system, TRW's president, Peter Hellman, has said.

Rival companies planning similar systems have scotched debt offerings because of low investor interest. But while those offerings would have had yields of 12 percent or 13 percent, TRW will offer a yield "in the high teens" if it proceeds with the \$2.3 billion project, Mr. Hellman said Friday.

TRW has pledged \$100 million in equity to the project, and a partner, Teleglobe Inc. of Canada, has promised \$50 million.

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In this Tuesday's

Style

Nature On Ice

The Sparkle of Diamonds

Herald Tribune THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

CYBER: Taking Root in Israel

Continued from Page 13

vices allowing, for example, bank customers to order checks on electronic order forms and automatically receive E-mail when the checks are ready to be picked up. Mr. Mantel said the company was also writing software to let companies sell products by E-mail.

For now, most of these applications are written in English. Accent, however, says that there is a market for other languages, too.

"People need E-mail and Internet that's as comfortable as the telephone," Mr. Rosenschein said. "Half the world speaks Arabic or Chinese and the Internet will come to them. Either everyone will speak English, or the information superhighway must be made more multilingual."

Mr. Rosenschein founded Accent with his brother Jeffrey in 1988 as a research laboratory. Microsoft approached Accent in 1991 to develop Hebrew and Arabic software. In 1994, Accent came out with its epony-

mous software, which lets a user type in 35 languages. It recently came out with "Accent Duo," a translation program.

Robert Rosenschein said Israel was the perfect test market for such products because it was populated by "very demanding" people who need more than English. Arabic is the main language of 15 percent of Israel's and Russian is the first language for 18 percent.

Accent is shortly to come out with a product that can browse the Internet in Japanese, Mr. Rosenschein said, followed by Chinese, Korean and perhaps the Hindi dialects of India.

The possibilities for Accent's products range from multinational conglomerates to universities, where language students may want to type their term papers in the language they are studying, to the home market.

"The masses feel more comfortable in their own language," said Jeffrey Rosenschein. "Israel is incredibly multilingual."

Internet address: Cyber-Scape@ihti-lib.demon.co.uk

BusinessWeek

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CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA.

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

ADVANCE FEE FRAUD SCAM

THE CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED THAT IN SPITE OF THE VARIOUS EFFORTS MADE IN THE PAST THROUGH PRESS STATEMENTS TO COMBAT THE ADVANCE FEE FRAUD/TELEFAX SCAM, IT HAS CONTINUED, UNABATED, WITH INCREASING SOPHISTICATION. THE BANK IS ALSO WORRIED BY THE RECKLESS ABANDON WITH WHICH NAMES OF SOME TOP CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA OFFICIALS ARE OFTEN FRAUDULENTLY USED BY THE FRAUDSTERS TO LEND CREDIBILITY AND RESPECTABILITY TO THE SPURIOUS TRANSACTIONS.

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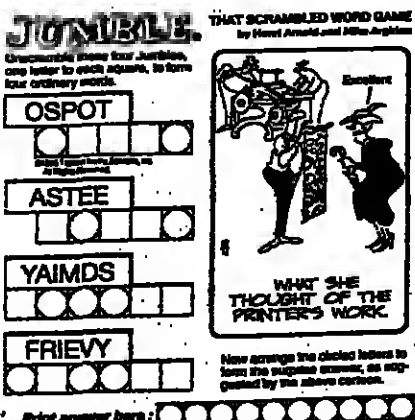
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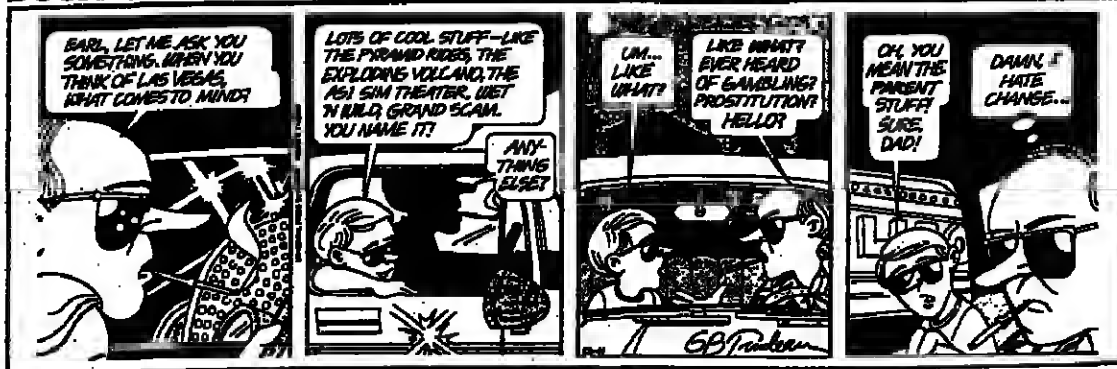
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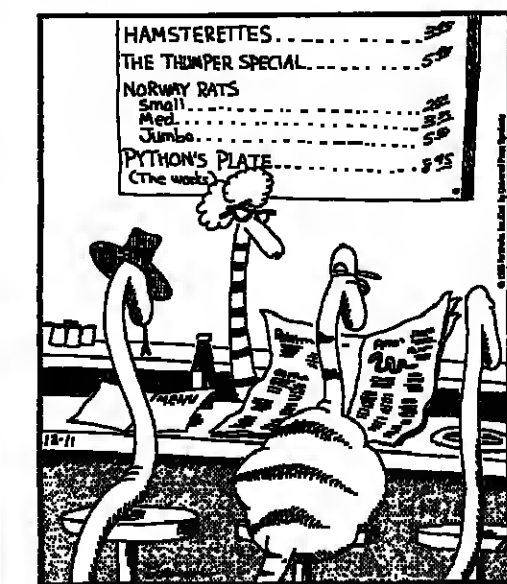
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SPORTS



Atle Skardal showing winning form in Super-G slalom Sunday at Val d'Isère. His compatriot Lasse Kjus was second.

McNeeley's Next Opponent: 45-Year-Old Doctor

By George Vecsey
New York Times Service

WHEN last we heard from Peter McNeeley, the so-called Irish Hurricane, he was surviving exactly 89 seconds last summer against Mike Tyson, who was fresh from the slammer.

McNeeley's latest opponent has different credentials. He's an orthopedic surgeon — a middle-aged orthopedic surgeon, at that.

In Punta Gorda, Florida, on Tuesday night McNeeley will fight the 45-year-old Dr. Harold (Hackie) Reitman, who risks his life in the ring and gives the earnings to charity.

"Why the heck is the doctor doing that?" asked McNeeley's father, Tom, the former boxer who

was knocked down eight times by Floyd Patterson in the big match of his own career. "I mean, I respect his love for the sport, but what about his hands?"

This is a question I ask Hackie Reitman every year or two. This is a question his wife, Marilee, has been known to ask. This is a question journalists and boxing commissions keep asking.

But Hackie Reitman has a legitimate record of 11 victories, four losses and four draws, and he has never been hurt while mixing the medical science with the sweet science.

"I still love boxing and I'm still getting better," said Reitman. "My manager, Tony Torino, keeps teaching me things, and the other day I was sparring with Trevor Berbick and I hit him with a jab and then with a hook. I'm no Sugar Ray Robinson, but I did it."

A boxing abolitionist like me should probably get all fired up against a doctor risking his hands, but my theory is that as long as there are Kings and Arums and Trumps loose in boxing, it's nice to have a legitimate philanthropist around, too.

He learned to box in a youth club in Jersey City, New Jersey, and was the New England Golden Gloves champion while in medical school at Boston University. But he did not turn professional because he devoted himself to his family and his practice in Plantation, Florida.

However, when the couple's only child, Rebecca, survived delicate brain surgery 10 years ago, Reitman vowed to fight exhibitions for charity. In the late '80s, he turned professional, and tested himself against many leading heavyweights, at the historic Fifth Street Gym in Miami until it was torn down recently. He still dreams of fighting George Foreman, or maybe even sparring with Tyson.

"I was in the gym in Las Vegas one time when Tyson showed up," Reitman said. "But his six bodyguards got everybody out of the gym before he would train. I would love to sit down and talk boxing with Mike Tyson sometime. He is one of the most knowledgeable boxers I have ever heard because of his time with Cus D'Amato."

Reitman followed the Tyson-McNeeley fight. "I saw a clip from it," he said. "Or maybe it was the whole fight itself."

McNeeley's manager, Vinnie Vecchione, stopped it after 89 seconds, lest his fighter get hurt.

"I think Hackie Reitman is the kind of guy who runs around with the 'Rocky' theme song in his ears," Vecchione said recently. "We're taking him very seriously."

Reitman respects the three generations of boxing McNeeleys. The late Tom Sr.

was the national light heavyweight champion in 1928 and Tom Jr. was an amateur champion who later lost to Patterson.

"Tom McNeeley saved my life once," Reitman said. "I was working my way through med school as the house doctor at the Boston Garden. One night, Tom McNeeley was the referee of a pro wrestling match."

"One of the wrestlers hit Gorilla Monsoon with his specialty, the Cardiac Crunch Punch. The ushers carried Gorilla Monsoon, who weighed around 450 pounds, off to the dressing room. I didn't think anything of it until somebody said, 'Doc, Gorilla Monsoon's heart stopped.'"

"I went to the dressing room, and they were all standing around Gorilla, and I said, 'Mr. Monsoon, how are you feeling?' and he said, 'I don't know, Doc. I felt like my heart stopped.' I examined him, and everything seemed normal, but still, medically speaking, I said I had to send him to the hospital for observation."

"All of a sudden, all the wrestlers, Haystacks Calhoun, the whole bunch of them, took one step forward and said, 'We don't think that would be a good idea.'"

"I was worried about what to do, until I saw Tom McNeeley out in the corridor. I told him my predicament and he said, 'All I can tell you is, they all leave together at 11 P.M.' I think he was telling me to get out of there before they did."

Tom McNeeley remembers the young doctor on duty that night. "I was trying to tell him that wrestlers take care of their own. A lot of crazy things happened in wrestling."

The doctor isn't sure whether he was conned into the act that night in Boston. There is no act Tuesday — just a middle-aged orthopedic surgeon who cannot stop practicing a brutal sport he loves.

Norwegians Supreme in Super-G

Reuters

VAL D'ISÈRE, France — Atle Skardal upstaged his compatriot and the World Cup leader Lasse Kjus on Sunday to underline Norway's supremacy in the super-giant slalom this season.

Skardal, a 29-year-old downhill veteran, clocked one minute 20.65 seconds to snatch the first super-G victory of his career and his first World Cup victory in for nearly two years.

Kjus, the winner of the opening super-giant slalom of the season last week in Vail, Colorado, had to be content with a time of 1:20.80.

Kjus, the World Cup overall leader finished in second place for the fifth time in nine races this season. This consistency has

allowed him to build up a 245-point lead in the overall standings over second-placed Michael von Grünigen of Switzerland, a giant slalom specialist. Hans Knaus took third place in 1:20.98 to confirm Austria's fine early-season showing.

But there was no stopping the "attacking Vikings" on the same run used 24 hours earlier for a men's downhill won by Luc Alphand of France.

It was revenge for both Skardal and Kjus. Skardal, a downhill specialist, had never before won a super-G, though he came close in this French resort in 1991 before being edged by Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg.

It was in Val d'Isère that he had his best super-giant results, finishing 6th in 1993,

5th in 1990, 4th in 1992 and second in 1991.

Even though he failed to repeat his victory in Vail, the first in his career, Kjus was happy to take second place after missing a gate in the previous day's downhill.

There was a big scare for the local crowd when Alphand, who became the first Frenchman to win a World Cup downhill in Val d'Isère on Saturday, had a spectacular fall on Sunday. The World Cup downhill leader lost his balance halfway down and crashed into the safety nets. The finish area went silent until Alphand raised his hand to signal he was all right.

"My back hurts a little bit but it's nothing serious," he said. "It was hard to concentrate after my victory yesterday."

Ivanisevic Aces Out Martin in Grand Slam Cup

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

MUNICH — Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia did what he does best, blasting four successive aces past Todd Martin to close out the final Sunday of the \$6 million season-ending Grand Slam Cup, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4.

The match-winning service was Ivanisevic's 1,000th ace of the season and netted him a first prize of \$1,625,000, the richest in the sport.

Ivanisevic fired 28 aces in a match that lasted only one hour, 43 minutes.

Martin never really had an answer to the Croat's power

game, tailor-made for the fast Munich carpet, and was clearly feeling the effects of his hard-fought four-set defeat of the local favorite, Boris Becker, the previous day.

The American kept the pace until 4-4 in the first-set tiebreak. Ivanisevic hit a tremendous return and then pounded two straight aces to win the set.

The second set went with serve until the eighth game, when a backhand error by Martin allowed Ivanisevic to break for 5-3. The Croatian clinched the second set in the next game.

There were few rallies on the very fast carpet surface in the third set, but was broken in the seventh as Ivanisevic took a decisive 4-3 lead.

Martin, also a semifinalist here last year, saved two match points in the next game to stay in the match.

But Ivanisevic fired four aces in a row to finish the match with a love game.

Ivanisevic had had an easier passage to the final after the world No. 1, Pete Sampras, pulled out of their quarterfinal

injured before a ball was struck.

The tournament won took his year's earnings to \$3.78 million.

The Grand Slam Cup, in its sixth year, carries no ranking points but still attracts most of the world's elite with its huge prizes and a \$250,000 appearance bonus for the reigning champion of each Grand Slam event. The 16 competitors qualify on the strength of performances in the four Grand Slam tournaments: the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open. (AP, Reuters)



Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia on his way to defeating Todd Martin in Sunday's tournament for a \$1.6 million payoff.

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

PACIFIC DIVISION

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

HOCKEY

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

CENTRAL DIVISION

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

PACIFIC DIVISION

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

TENNIS

GRAND SLAM CUP

HURON

TODD MARTIN, UNITED STATES, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4

Goran Ivanisevic, Croatia, 7-6, 6-3, 6-4

CRICKET

FIRST TEST

SRI LANKA VS. AUSTRALIA, 1ST DAY

AUSTRALIA 1st Innings: 175 (Gibson)

SRI LANKA 1st Innings: 12-0

AUSTRALIA 2nd Innings: 201

SRI LANKA 2nd Innings: 201

AUSTRALIA 3rd Innings: 201

SRI LANKA 3rd Innings: 201

AUSTRALIA 4th Innings: 201

SRI LANKA 4th Innings: 201

AUSTRALIA 5th Innings: 201

SRI LANKA 5th Innings: 201

AUSTRALIA 6th Innings: 201

SRI LANKA 6th Innings: 201

AUSTRALIA 7th Innings: 201

SRI LANKA 7th Innings: 201

AUSTRALIA 8th Innings: 201

SRI LANKA 8th Innings: 201

AUSTRALIA 9th Innings: 201

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AUSTRALIA 11th Innings: 201

SRI LANKA 11th Innings: 201

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SPORTS

Ohio State
Rusher Wins
Heisman for
Award SweepBy Malcolm Moran
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Eddie George of Ohio State University became the 61st winner of the Heisman Trophy to complete a sweep of the awards as the major college football player of the year.

George, who set a rushing record for the university that produced Archie Griffin — the only two-time winner in the history of the award — gave Ohio State its sixth Heisman on Saturday night and the first since Griffin won his second in 1975.

George, who had earlier been named the 1992 Camp National player of the year, shed with 1,460 points, 264 ahead of runner-up Frazier, the Nebraska quarterback, who won the award. Frazier, the Florida quarterback, ished third. George gained 268 first-down votes to 218 for Frazier and 185 for Wuerffel, the Northwestern quarterback, finished fourth, followed by Peyton Manning, the Tennessee's quarterback.

Timing had been important in past close Heisman votes. Steve Spurrier, Wuerffel's coach at the University of Florida, won the 66 award partly because ballots were distributed just before the quarterback's dramatic, 40-yard, game-winning 31-yard goal to defeat Auburn. That game was Wuerffel's seventh of the season. Spurrier is announced as the Heisman winner before the last game of that 1996 season.

This time, 49 percent of the ballots had returned by Dec. 1, the day before Wuerffel passed for 276 yards and two touchdowns as the most valuable player of the Southeastern Conference championship game victory over Arkansas.

By that point, Frazier had already led Nebraska to a perfect regular season and urged had rushed for an Ohio State-record 26 yards, including his remarkable 314-yard game against Illinois on Nov. 11. A race that seemed clear between Frazier and George throughout much of November ended over Thanksgiving weekend. Nebraska's offense struggled in a routine victory over Oklahoma, with Frazier passing for 128 yards and rushing for just 35 yards on 10 carries. Then George was held 104 yards in Ohio State's crushing loss at Chicago, a game that ruined a perfect key season and ended hopes of a trip to Pasadena.

The players had begun the week here by adoring what their peers were like, only discover they were just like themselves. Saturday, as the finalists waited for the men when they would gather in the isman Room on the 13th floor of the wintown Athletic Club here, the talk was about competition. As they produced latest in an endless series of tired smiles the cameras, Wuerffel had a question. "Are we looking mean?" he wondered. "ou want us looking mean?"

uddenly they were wearing their best urday game faces, one more grim than the next: Wuerffel, George, Autry, who ned a school record 1,675 yards in a Big 1 championship season, and Davis, ose 2,010 rushing yards made him the h player in history to exceed 2,000.



Mavericks' Jamal Mashburn, front, trying to get past Bulls' guard Calbert Chaney.

Malone's 51 Points Lift Jazz
To Victory Over Golden State

The Associated Press
Karl Malone scored 51 points, including 20 in the third quarter to rally the Utah Jazz past the Golden State Warriors, 123-109.

Malone made 19-of-28 field goals in the game Saturday in Salt Lake City.

NBA ROUNDUP

and had 14 rebounds while equaling the highest individual score in the National Basketball Association this season.

On Thursday night, Malone watched Denver's Mahmoud Abdul-Rauf score 51 against the Jazz.

Utah held Golden State without a field goal for nearly seven of the last eight minutes.

Golden 124, Warriors 98 Dino Radja scored 23 points as Boston won its third straight, defeating Philadelphia.

Rick Fox scored 19 points for Boston, including 13 in the first quarter. Dana Barros, a former '76er, added 14 points and 10 assists.

Jerry Stackhouse scored 21 points and Sharon Wright 19 with 14 rebounds to lead Philadelphia, which has dropped 13 of its last 14 games.

Derrick Coleman, acquired by Philadelphia last week from the New Jersey Nets, sprained his ankle with 10:56 left in the second period and did not return.

Hornets 114, Timberwolves 108 Larry Johnson scored 35 points and Glen Rice sparked a fourth-quarter run with three three-pointers to lead Charlotte over visiting Minnesota.

Rice finished with 22 points, including four of the Hornets' 103-pointers.

Johnson made 15-of-20 shots, including three 3-pointers, and added 11 rebounds.

Nets 85, Cavaliers 73 In Cleveland,

Chris Childs, a reserve, scored 14 points in the fourth quarter as New Jersey beat Cleveland.

Childs hit two quick 15-foot (4.5-meter) jump shots to begin the period and put New Jersey ahead, 68-64, and start the Nets on a 13-4 run.

Childs led the Nets, who won for only the second time on the road, with 17 points. Kenny Anderson finished with 15 points for the Nets.

Danny Ferry led Cleveland with 18 and Terrell Brandon scored 14. Bobby Phills scored 11 but shot just 4-for-14 from the field one night after scoring a career-high 32 points in a victory over Philadelphia.

Knicks 101, Hawks 92 Patrick Ewing scored 16 of his 29 points in the final 8:40 in Atlanta and New York rallied to beat Atlanta. It was the Hawks' fifth straight loss.

Atlanta built a lead of 89-79 with nine minutes left before Ewing sparked the Knicks' 22-3 run in the final 8:40 to get the victory.

John Starks scored 20 points for the Knicks on 7-of-10 shooting and had six assists. Anthony Mason and Derek Harper each added 14 points for New York. Charles Oakley added 16 rebounds.

Steve Smith led the Hawks with 29 points.

Bullets 103, Mavericks 94 Robert Pack scored 25 points, including seven straight down the stretch, as Washington Bullets held off stumbling Dallas. Calbert Chaney scored 22 points for the Bullets, who had lost two of their previous three. Washington played without Chris Webber, who sat out with a sore left shoulder.

The Mavericks, lost for the 11th time in 12 games.

Bulls 118, Bucks 106 In Milwaukee, Michael Jordan scored a season-high

45 points to offset Glenn Robinson's career-high 39 for the Bucks as Chicago won its sixth straight.

Dennis Rodman grabbed 21 rebounds, and Scottie Pippen added 28 points and six assists for the Bulls, who have the best record in the National Basketball Association.

Jordan, the league's leading scorer at 29.4 points a game, padded his average with 11 points in the final 4:26. His performance helped the Bulls set a franchise mark for the best record (16-2) after 18 games.

West 94, Suns 92 In Phoenix, Kurt Thomas banked in a jumper with 8.9 seconds remaining as Miami defeated the Suns for the first time since entering the league in 1988.

Sasha Danilovic, a rookie who had 30 points for Miami, hit his sixth 3-pointer of the game to tie the score, 92-92, with 1:05 remaining.

Phoenix, which lost for the fifth time in the last seven games, saw its chance to send the game into overtime end when Michael Finley, a rookie, missed a jumper at the buzzer.

Kevin Johnson scored 20 points for the Suns. Finley added 18 and Charles Barkley had 13 points and 13 rebounds.

Alonzo Mourning strained a ligament in his left foot late in the first half and Kevin Willis strained his left arch late in the third quarter. Neither Miami player returned to the game.

SuperSonics 106, Trail Blazers 97 Detlef Schrempf scored 28 points and Shawn Kemp added 25 points and 13 rebounds as Seattle defeated visiting Portland.

The Sonics held the Blazers without a basket for nearly six minutes in the fourth quarter as they outscored the Blazers, 16-7, for a 96-82 lead with 2:45 left.

Carew Lets Game Face Slip as His Daughter Fights for Life

The Associated Press
ORANGE, California — Rod Carew muses wistfully about the snow his daughter Michelle has never seen, the falling flakes she's never tasted, the powder she's never scooped in her hands.

He and his wife, Marilyn, share smiles that have become rare lately, thinking together about Michelle's way of talking, her jokes and her dreams.

"It's a simple thing that this kid wants to see," he says. Watery eyes. Voice crackling. Fingers twisting the chunky gold ball of Fame ring on his right hand. "The first thing I'm going to make sure she sees when she gets well is the snow. I don't care where we have to go."

Acute nonlymphocytic leukemia, an aggressive killer that strikes 500 American children a year, invaded Michelle's bloodstream in September. Some rogue cell simply appeared in the bone marrow and triggered the disease. A college freshman, two months shy of 18. Healthy and lively until that night.

"A bone marrow transplant would do a couple of things," Dr. Mitchell S. Cairo, her oncologist, says. "One, is that we

would eliminate the original cell. And when you use a foreign bone marrow from an unrelated donor, it reacts against the recipient's leukemia cells at the same time it's generating normal blood cells. You just do it once, and it stays, hopefully, forever."

They wait for that rare genetic match, the gift of life from a stranger. No matter that the chance is infinitesimally small, maybe impossible. How many people have a black father of West Indian and Panamanian blood and a white mother born of Ukrainian Jews?

SO FAR, there's no match with any of the three million donors registered worldwide, not even her older sisters, Charrye and Stephanie, who matched each other but somehow not Michelle.

"A lot of minorities aren't in the donor pool to begin with, let alone someone who's like Michelle," Marilyn Carew says. "In 1970 when we got married, interracial couples weren't very popular. So there aren't too many products of those marriages old enough (at least 18) to be a donor."

With a blood-related donor, her doctor says, Michelle's chances of a cure would have been about 75 percent. A non-related donor, 50 percent. No donor, perhaps 30 to 50 percent.

Carew clings to the hope that someone who matches Michelle will call the U.S. National Marrow Donor Program at 1-800-MARROW-2 and try to save her. And if she can't be saved, Carew plans to go on urging people to save other children by registering as marrow donors.

Rod Carew is a strong, proud, dignified man, unused to revealing his deepest feelings or letting the world into the cherished privacy of his family. Only now he's letting down the barriers he constructed as a player and seven-time American League batting champion. He's reached the point where the story facade doesn't matter anymore. Emotions so raw, mind and body so weary, he's just given in to it all. He even wrote Dear Abby, the advice columnist Abigail Van Buren, for help.

"The response we've gotten from people from all over the country has just been unreal," he says. "I never really opened myself up before. People portrayed me as

aloof. I became an enigma to them because I was quiet. Growing up being an abused child, I protected myself. I kept to myself because I didn't want anyone to know me."

That didn't stop strangers from sending him hate mail during his career. They attacked his race, his interracial marriage, his wife's and daughters' Jewish faith. After he retired in 1985, he enjoyed the best six years of his life, staying away from the game, traveling from campground to campground with his family in a motor home. Michelle, ever ebullient, made friends everywhere.

MICHELLE lies in an air-filtered, sterile room in intensive care. A dozen times a day, the Carews scrub their hands before entering and cover mouths and noses with white masks decorated with pink and blue teddy bears.

For more than a week when the disease first struck, Michelle was blind. Four rounds of high-dose chemotherapy sent the cancer into remission, at least temporarily. The tradeoff: A weakened immune system that can't fight infection. Twice, she nearly

died of septic shock.

On Nov. 14, Rod and Marilyn left the hospital to take a quick shower at home, a brief respite from their constant vigil. A few minutes later, a panicked call from Charrye and Stephanie.

"Michelle's eyes had started rolling back in her head, her blood pressure dropped real low, into single digits, her body temperature went up to 105, 106, 107," Carew says, eyes welling at the memory. "When I came back and walked in the room, there were 10 people around her and they were trying to put tubes in her nose and her throat. And she was throwing up at the same time. They wanted to drain her so she wouldn't choke on it."

"And she's calling out to me in this weak voice, 'I'm fighting, Daddy. I'm fighting.'"

"I felt so utterly helpless."

The family waits for the fever to break, the counts to rise, the blood pressure to stabilize. They wait most of all for a bone-marrow donor to come forward with the perfect genetic match.

"I pray every night," Carew says softly, "and I cry every night."

Devils' Goaltender Becomes Instant Hit

The Associated Press

Corey Schwab of the New Jersey Devils was just another backup goalie in the National Hockey League.

Now, after the game Saturday night against the New York Islanders, he's the goon goalie, another of the NHL's tough guys, enforcer par excellence. He's also a Devils' fan favorite.

Schwab was ejected from the game against the Islanders for skating the length of the ice and punning the Islanders' goalie, Tommy Soderstrom, during a wild second-period melee that resulted in three ejections, a serious hand injury to the Islanders' defenseman Darius Kasparaitis and a 4-2 Devils victory.

Bill Guerin of the Devils and Kasparaitis, who severed a tendon in his right hand when it was stepped on in the fracas, also were kicked out of the game. However, the Devils coach, Jacques Lemaire, said he did not think Schwab would be suspended.

Schwab's one-sided fight against Soderstrom seemed to catch everyone off guard, especially Soderstrom.

Soderstrom appeared to be trying to prevent Guerin from going after a New York player near the Islanders' goal, when Schwab went into action. He left his crease and charged up the ice quickly in his bulky equipment. "I was looking at the situation and he was standing in the crease and sort of waved his arm," said Schwab, who was making only his second career start. "I don't know if he was



Corey Schwab, the Devils' goaltender, punches Tommy Soderstrom, left, of the Islanders.

asking the coach should he go. Then he went and got Billy Gordon under the head and I have to go help him out."

Just before getting to Soderstrom, Schwab peeled off his gloves. Then he delivered his help with a barrage of punches that opened a cut on Soderstrom's left cheek.

"I never saw him coming," said Soderstrom, who needed seven stitches to close his cut. "I was just trying to hold one guy on New Jersey. I was holding him with one hand and then he comes down. That's hockey. I'll get him back someday."

The attack stunned the goalie's teammates, including Martin Brodeur, who had to replace Schwab in goal.

"I've never seen a guy lose it like that," Brodeur said. "I'm used to playing with a guy (Chris Terreri) this big (about 5 feet) and I knew he was never going down there."

The fight wasn't the first for Schwab. He also had one two years ago while playing for Al-

bany against Hershey, but it wasn't as bad because the other goalie backed away.

Soderstrom didn't, although 6-foot (1.83-meter) Schwab never let him.

"It was wild," said Soderstrom, who is 5-foot-7 and 165 pounds (75 kilograms). "I had my left glove on and he had two free hands. It was a pretty cheap trick from him."

Guerin defended Schwab's actions, saying he did it for the team. However, he also admitted Soderstrom wasn't doing much to him.

"I guess he saw enough where Schwab thought it was OK to come down," Guerin said.

"It was something that happened," added John MacLean, who also beat Soderstrom — but just for two goals. "Schwabie is a team guy and he was doing for the team. It's a shame he had to get thrown out for it because he was playing such a good game."

Schwab had stopped 11 shots

and was holding a 2-0 lead when Guerin took exception to being checked into the boards by Rich Pilon at 6:40 of the second period. Pilon slipped to the ice after his hit and Guerin stood over him throwing punches at the defenseman who covered up to protect himself.

"He wanted to fight but I can't fight right now with my hands," said Pilon, who was playing in his first game this season because of wrist and groin injuries.

Kasparaitis stopped the attack by going after Guerin, but that started the melee behind the Islanders' net involving all the players on the ice but Schwab and Soderstrom. Schwab joined the fray less than a minute later to the delight of the crowd, which roared with his every punch.

Away from the punches, though, someone stepped on Kasparaitis' right hand, severing a tendon and leaving the ice surface dotted with red from the Islanders' net to the bench.

Penguins Extend Streak, Trouncing Whalers, 6-0

The Associated Press

Jaromir Jagr had a goal and three assists and Ken Wregget recorded his third shutout in 12 games as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Hartford Whalers, 6-0, in Pittsburgh to extend their winning streak to eight games.

The Penguins matched the National Hockey League season high for a winning streak this year set by Colorado and

NHL ROUNDUP

Philadelphia. Jagr has a career-best 12 game point-scoring streak. He has been held scoreless just twice in 27 games this season and has 17 multiple-point games.

Wregget, who played because Tom Barasso has a groin injury, tied Detroit's Chris Osgood for the NHL lead in shutouts. He stopped 35 shots as he won his fifth consecutive decision.

Rangers 3, Canadiens 2 In Montreal, Valeri Bure scored two goals in the third period to give the Canadiens a tie with New York.

Bure picked up his third and fourth goals of the season and helped save Jocelyn Thibault's strong debut in the Montreal net.

Luc Robitaille and Mark Messier scored for the Rangers, who twice took one-goal leads.

Thibault, 20, was making his first start since he was acquired from Colorado last Wednesday, along with Andrei Kovalenko and Martin Rucinsky, in exchange for the star goaltender Patrick Roy and the forward Mike Keane.

Panthers 3, Bruins 1 In Miami, Jody Hull scored the game-winner and John Vanbiesbroeck made several sterling saves after a three-game absence to lead Florida to victory over struggling Boston.

The Bruins lost their third consecutive game on the road.

A streaking Hull took a centering pass from Bill Lindsay and steered the puck past the Bruins goaltender, Craig Billington, at 8:10 of the second period to give the Panthers a 2-1 lead.

Scott Mellanby clinched the victory on a two-on-one rush with his team-leading 17th goal.

Stars 3, Maple Leafs 1 Mats Sundin

scored two goals as the Maple Leafs beat Dallas in Toronto. Toronto is 8-0-1 versus Dallas at Maple Leaf Gardens since the Stars — then the Minnesota North Stars — won 2-1 on Jan. 26, 1993.

Ken Baumgartner also scored for Toronto, which won its third straight.

Greg Adams got the lone Dallas goal, beating Felix Potvin, who made 33 saves. Dallas has lost three in a row.

Avalanche 7, Senators 3 In Ottawa, Peter Forsberg scored twice and had three assists as Colorado beat Ottawa.

Claude Lemieux, returning to the Colorado lineup after missing two games with a broken finger, had a goal and an assist while Scott Young, Jamie Laake, Joe Sakic and Adam Deadmarsh also tallied for the NHL's second-highest scoring club.

Stephane Fiset, making his first start in goal since the Avalanche acquired Roy, was sharp but required just 19 saves to pick up his 14th victory of the season.

Flames 4, Sharks 2 In San Jose, California, Doug Weight broke a tie with his ninth goal of the season and added an empty-net goal as Edmonton defeated San Jose.

Zdeno Ciger had a goal and an assist to help the Oilers to only their ninth victory of the season.

The Sharks, worse off with only five victories, are 2-2 under their new coach, Jim Wilkey, who was promoted last week when Kevin Constantine was fired.

Blues 2, Kings 1 Grant Fuhr returned to the Los Angeles Forum for the first time since his forgettable 14-game stint with the Kings and made 40 saves as St. Louis extended its unbeaten streak to six games.

Helped by Brett Hull's second consecutive two-goal game, Fuhr turned the tables on the Kings less than five weeks after Byron Dafeo, a rookie, earned his first NHL shutout with 33 saves in a 1-0 decision against Fuhr at St. Louis.

Kelly Hrudey started instead of Dafeo and made 39 saves for the Kings.

Canucks 4, Flames 3 Trevor Linden's goal ignited a three-goal first period and led visiting Vancouver to victory over Calgary.

Linden opened the scoring, then added an assist in the third period as Vancouver improved its season record against the Flames to 1-0-1.

THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY, DEC. 11

OLYMPIC SPORTS Winterberg, Germany — Ice, World Cup. Moscow, Russia — Figure Skating, World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup.

TUESDAY, DEC. 12

WORLD CUP OF ICE Hockey — World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

WORLD CUP OF ICE Hockey — World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup.

THURSDAY, DEC. 14

WORLD CUP OF ICE Hockey — World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup.

FRIDAY, DEC. 15

WORLD CUP OF ICE Hockey — World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup.

SATURDAY, DEC. 16

WORLD CUP OF ICE Hockey — World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup.

SUNDAY, DEC. 17

WORLD CUP OF ICE Hockey — World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup. Los Angeles, California — Figure Skating, World Cup.

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WORLD ROUNDUP



Frans Botha of South Africa, world IBF heavyweight champ.

'Buffalo' Sparks Riot

BOXING In a decision that triggered a riot, Frans Botha of South Africa beat Axel Schulz for the vacant IBF heavyweight championship in Stuttgart.

When Botha, who has nicknamed himself the "white buffalo" was announced as a split-decision winner, outraged German fans flung coins, beer and champagne bottles into the ring Saturday night. Officials later revised the scorecards from the three judges, giving the South African a unanimous decision. The IBF had stripped the title from Foreman, whose last fight was also a disputed victory over Schulz.

Six people were treated in a hospital for cuts by flying glass in the mayhem around the ring. None were injured seriously, said the police, who also said many people in the crowd were drunk. Some tried to climb into the ring. Fans sought shelter under tables and others tried to flee in panic. (AP)

3d Title for North Alabama

FOOTBALL North Alabama University dismantled Pittsburg State, 27-7, for an unprecedented third straight NCAA Division II championship.

The game Saturday matched the top-ranked Lions against the fourth-ranked Gorillas, who came in with college football's best record at any level since 1985 and the best record in the '90s in Division II. North Alabama (14-0) shredded Kansas-based Pittsburg State (12-1-1), amassing 380 yards to the Gorillas' 176 and holding a 2-to-1 advantage in possession time. (AP)

Bosnia Could Play Croatia

SOCCER FIFA, world soccer's governing body, has no plans to keep the five states from the former Yugoslavia apart in the draw Tuesday for the qualifying rounds of the 1998 World Cup. "They are now at peace," Sepp Blatter, the FIFA general secretary, told a news conference.

Bosnia will probably play its home games in Italy. (Reuters)

Tampering by Sri Lanka

CRICKET Sri Lanka became the first team to be censured for tampering with the ball. The warning came from Graham Dowling because the shape of the ball was altered during play Saturday. Even so, Australia scored 358 for two wickets and on Sunday advanced to 617 for five before declaring with a first-inning lead of 366. Sri Lanka reached 13 without loss before the close Sunday (Reuters)

In Christchurch, New Zealand, Ijaz Ahmed hit his second century in successive tests and helped Pakistan into a position of control of the one-off test against New Zealand. At the close on the third day, Pakistan was 369 for seven wickets in their second innings, 291 runs ahead. (Reuters)

Dispute in Senna's Death

MOTOR RACING The Williams Formula One team said Sunday it was too soon to comment on a claim that Ayrton Senna's death was caused by a badly welded steering rod.

Williams was reacting to a report in the News of the World, a British Sunday tabloid, which quoted the chief investigator into the Brazilian's fatal accident as saying that Senna died because the rod had been "badly welded together." (Reuters)

Eagles Soar Over the Cowboys, To Win on Field Goal, 20-17

The Associated Press

Stop Emmitt Smith and you stop the Dallas Cowboys.

The Philadelphia Eagles had to do it twice in the final two minutes Sunday. Gary Anderson made a 42-yard field goal with 1:26 left for a stunning 20-17 victory

NFL ROUNDOUP

spiced by controversy in the waning moments — and an incredible decision by Dallas' coach, Barry Switzer.

Switzer chose to go for a fourth-and-one at the Cowboys' 29. Philadelphia stopped Smith's run, but officials had whistled the play dead just before it began for the two-minute warning.

With dozens of players on the field, the referee, Ed Hochuli, at first signaled first down for the Eagles. Theo he reversed it after a discussion, twice having to announce to the raucous crowd — and Philadelphia players — that the clock had reached 2:00. Switzer again went for it and Andy Harmon stuffed Smith for no gain.

Anderson booted his fourth field goal four plays later, also needing a repeat kick when officials blew his first successful shot dead.

Dallas (10-4) got a big first half from Smith, then completely stalled and was blanked in the second half. It was the Cowboys' second straight loss and first to the Eagles in eight meetings. The defeat cost the Cowboys their hold on home field advantage for the National Football Conference playoffs after San Francisco's 31-10 victory at Carolina.

49ers 31, Panthers 10 Steve Young, sidelined with shoulder problems in Carolina's victory Nov. 5 in San Francisco, threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third in their rematch, leading the 49ers to victory.

Young completed 31 of 45 passes for 336 yards in what was easily his best performance in three games since undergoing surgery Nov. 13 on his throwing shoulder.

Young helped San Francisco (10-4) extend its NFL record streak of 10-victory seasons to 13 in a row.

The Panthers fell short in their third attempt to reach the 500 mark this season.

Bengals 16, Bears 10 Jeff Blake dinked and dunked against Chicago's deep coverage to set up three field goals, then threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to Damay Scott, sending the Cincinnati Bengals to a 16-10 victory. Chicago (7-7) became a long shot for a second consecutive playoff appearance when its offense froze up on a frosty afternoon and the league's third-worst pass defense gave up another big play.

Bills 45, Rams 27 Jim Kelly had four touchdown passes despite a sore throwing shoulder and Thurman Thomas returned from a hamstring injury that has hampered him most of the season with 129 yards rushing in Buffalo's victory in St. Louis. Kelly completed 19 of 25 passes for 237 yards and had none picked off. Thomas totaled 234 yards with a 3.4-yard average his previous four games. The Bills (9-5) rebounded from successive losses to the Jets and San Francisco and solidified their lead in the AFC East.

Falcons 19, Saints 14 In Atlanta, Morten Andersen kicked four field goals including an NFL record three of more than 50 yards to give Atlanta a victory over his former New Orleans teammates. The Falcons (8-6) snapped a two-game losing streak to remain in the chase for a wild card playoff berth. The Saints (6-8) had won two in a row and five of their previous six.

Colts 41, Jaguars 31 Aaron Bailey returned the opening kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and the visiting Colts scored twice after Jacksonville turnovers to beat the Jaguars. Indianapolis (8-6) retained an inside track to a wild-card spot in the AFC, while Jacksonville (3-11) lost its sixth in a row and stayed in position to claim the No. 1 pick in next year's draft.

Jim Harbaugh, the top-rated passer in the NFL, was in uniform six days after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right knee and could have played if needed. He wasn't.

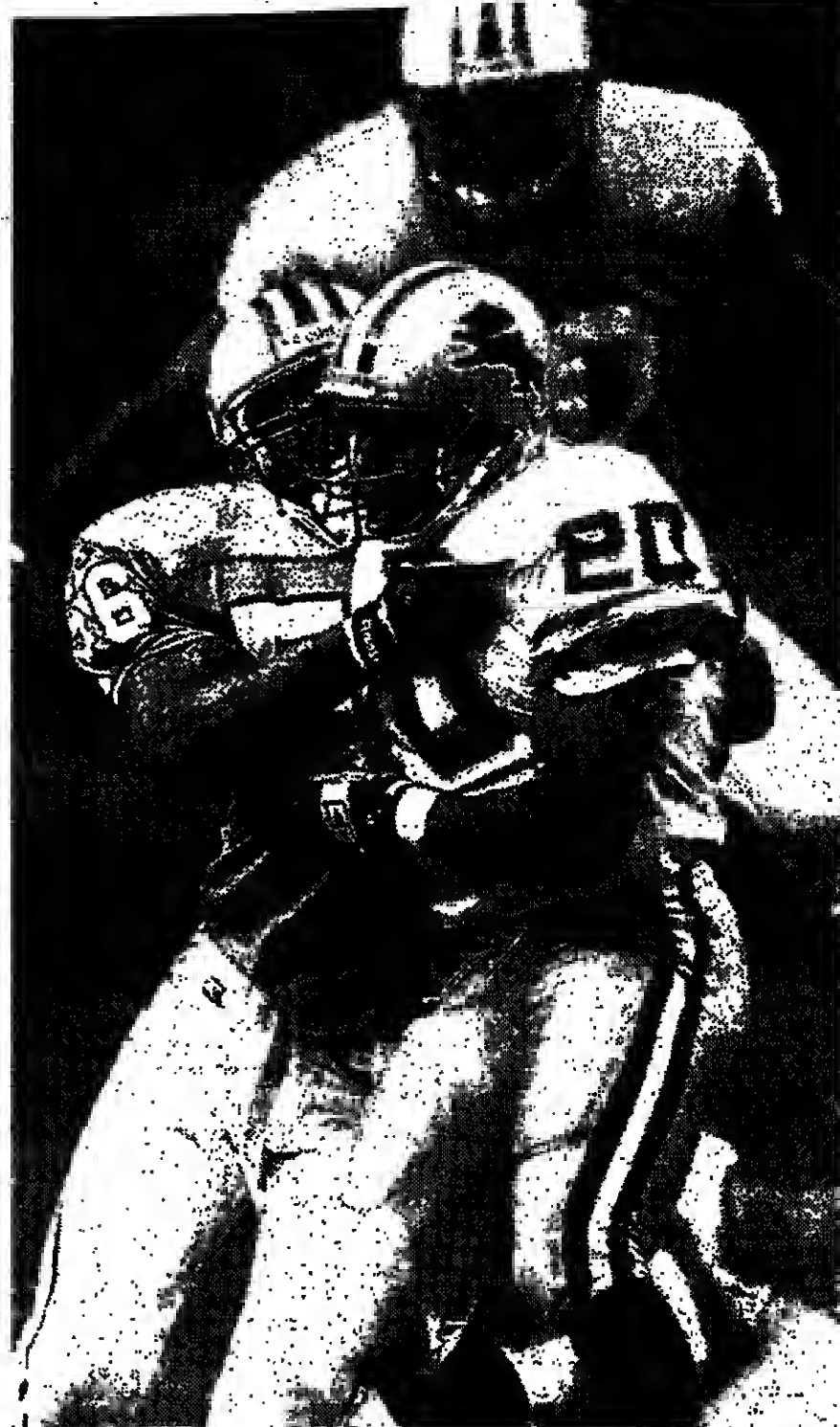
Lions 24, Oilers 17 In Houston, Steve McNair threw his first career touchdown pass, but Detroit's top-ranked offense got a pair of TD passes from Scott Mitchell to Herman Moore for a victory, the Lions' fifth straight. Fans cheered loudly when McNair, called McMillionaire because of his seven-year, \$28.7 million contract, replaced Chris

Chandler at the start of the second half. And they roared when McNair hit fellow rookie Chris Sanders, a fellow rookie, for a 39-yard touchdown pass with 6:13 to play. But it was too late to make up for the mistake-prone Oilers' offense, which committed six turnovers, including two near the end of the first half that allowed the Lions (8-6) to establish a 17-7 halftime lead.

Patriots 21, Jets 20 Troy Brown scooped up Dave Meggett's fumbled kickoff return and raced 75 yards for the go-ahead touchdown with 5:39 left as host New England handed its way past bumbling New York. Even Boomer Esiason, who had risen above the antics with four scoring passes, finally succumbed. On the first offensive play after Brown's touchdown had made the score 24-21, he threw an interception to Ty Law that gave the Patriots the ball at the Jets' 22-yard line. Curtis Martin carried the ball on the next four plays and scored his second touchdown of the game, a one-yard run that capped his 148-yard rushing day and gave New England a 31-21 lead. Esiason then guided the Jets on an impressive, 77-yard drive that didn't matter. His three-yard scoring pass to Ryan Yarbrough came with just five seconds left.

Vikings 27, Browns 11 Charles Evans, a backup running back, scored the first two touchdowns of his NFL career. Saturday, and Orlando Thomas, a rookie, led a swarming defense with two interceptions in Minnesota's victory, its fifth in six games. Minnesota held the Browns to minus-5 yards in the third quarter, and Warren Moon's 9-yard pass to Jake Reed made it 20-3 with 5:43 left in the quarter. Moon completed 20 of 29 passes for 267 yards, with one touchdown and an interception before leaving with a rib injury.

Chargers 20, Cardinals 10 San Diego's return specialist, Andre Coleman, ran back the second-half kickoff 92 yards for the go-ahead touchdown, the middle score of a 21-point burst that gave the Chargers victory Saturday over Arizona. Alternately stifled and aided by Buddy Ryan's aggressive "46" defense, San Diego scored three times in 6 minutes, 18 seconds. The Chargers, the defending American Football Conference champion, won their third straight game to remain in playoff contention.



Houston Oilers' linebacker Michael Barrow tackling the Detroit Lions' running back Barry Sanders, foreground, in a game won by the Lions 24-17.

Asprilla Returns With Flick of Genius

Reuters

Faustino Asprilla scored a cheeky, back-heeled goal to set second-placed Parma on its way to a 2-1 victory Sunday over Lazio as Serie A's second-place team kept the pressure on AC Milan which tied Napoli 0-0 in Milan.

Asprilla, playing only his third match of the season after a series of legal and domestic problems, justified his selection

SOCCER ROUNDOUP

ahead of an out-of-form Hristo Stoichkov with a single stroke of genius in the 37th minute. Controlling Crippa's precise cross with his back to the goal, the Colombian fooled Lazio's goalkeeper, Francesco Mancini, with a quick flick of his heel.

Mancini was again wrong-footed as Zola's free kick took a deflection to condemn Lazio to its third defeat in four games and stretch Parma's unbeaten league run to 10.

Napoli's Giuseppe Tagliacozza saved a penalty from Roberto Baggio to frustrate Milan, the league leaders.

Juventus, the champion, lost 2-0 away to Sampdoria. The game was billed as a triumphant homecoming for Juve's trio of former Sampdoria stars — Gianluca Vialli, Attilio Lombardo and Vladimir Jugovic. Marcello Lippi, the Juventus manager, played for the Genoa team in the 1960s.

Instead, Juventus rarely looked like scoring against a team missing eight first-team regulars. Enrico Chiesa scored both Sampdoria goals, taking his tally to five in just two matches. His first, in the 43rd minute, was a superb shot on the turn. Chiesa, signed in the summer from Cremonese, added his strike in the 52d with another breathtaking strike.

Florentina tightened its grip on third with a 3-0 victory over Udinese. Gabriel

Battista set up Francesco Baiano's first goal in the 18th minute with an exquisite chip before clinching victory with two goals of his own. Goran Vlasovic, playing only his second match since undergoing brain surgery in September, scored both Padova goals in a 2-1 defeat of Internazionale.

FRANCE Paris Saint-Germain, the league leader, beat Nantes, the defending champion, 5-0, at Parc des Princes.

The victory was a justification for the trainer Luis Fernandez's decision to opt for an attacking style. The five strikers he used each scored once. Julio Cesar Dely Valdes opened the scoring after five minutes and by halftime Youri Djorkaeff and Patrice Loko, who played for Nantes last season, also had scored. Rai scored the fourth and Pascal Nouma the fifth just before the end.

Lens kept pace on Sunday evening with a 2-1 victory at Strasbourg. Auxerre, third, lost Saturday, 2-1, at home to Monaco for whom the Brazilian Sonny Anderson and Michael Madar scored, and Metz, fourth, tied Cannes 0-0.

ENGLAND Steve Stone provided a bright spark at the end of a dark weekend for Terry Venables, the English national coach. Stone, who has made a splash in recent England games, again underlined his knack for scoring important goals when he struck from 20 meters in the 82d minute to give Nottingham Forest a 1-1 tie with Aston Villa. Dwight Yorke had scored for Villa. Villa climbed a place to sixth in the Premier League. Forest stayed eighth.

The games Saturday games had brought injuries to three members of Venables' squad for the game against Portugal on Tuesday: Teddy Sheringham, Robert Lee and David Platt.

All three were fit enough, however, to complete the full 90 minutes for their clubs.

Sheringham's third minute goal gave Tottenham Hotspur a 1-0 victory over the Queen's Park Rangers. Lee, and the league leader Newcastle United, lost 1-0 at Chelsea, while Platt's Arsenal tied 0-0 at Southampton. Tottenham's manager, Gerry Francis, said Sheringham, who has back problems, "has been put on traction straight after the final whistle and we'll have to see how he is with the England doctors tomorrow."

Lee pulled a muscle when he "slipped on grass," said his manager, Kevin Keegan, but will join the England squad. Platt, who strained a hamstring, will not.

Manchester United gained a point on Newcastle after Eric Cantona scored his second goal in the 83d minute to secure a 2-2 tie Wednesday with Sheffield. Roy Keane did not play and has withdrawn from the Ireland squad for Wednesday's playoff against the Netherlands for last place in the European finals.

GERMANY The reigning champion, Borussia Dortmund, gained a lucky 1-0 victory Saturday at Freiburg to take a two-point lead into the German winter break.

A 48th-minute goal from the teenager Lars Ricken and a superb performance by the goalkeeper Stefan Klos helped Dortmund keep its lead over Bayern Munich, which won 2-0 away at relegation-threatened Fortuna Dusseldorf. The Bundesliga resumes Feb. 9. Even at the halfway stage the championship race seems to be a battle between Dortmund and Bayern.

SPAIN Espanyol climbed over neighbors Barcelona into second place in the first division on Sunday after a blistering shot from Francisco Lopez paved the way to a hard-fought 3-1 home win over titleholders Real Madrid. Real is in seventh, 11 points behind Atletico Madrid who on Saturday extended their lead at the top with a splendid 3-1 victory over Barcelona.

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